



SANKALP

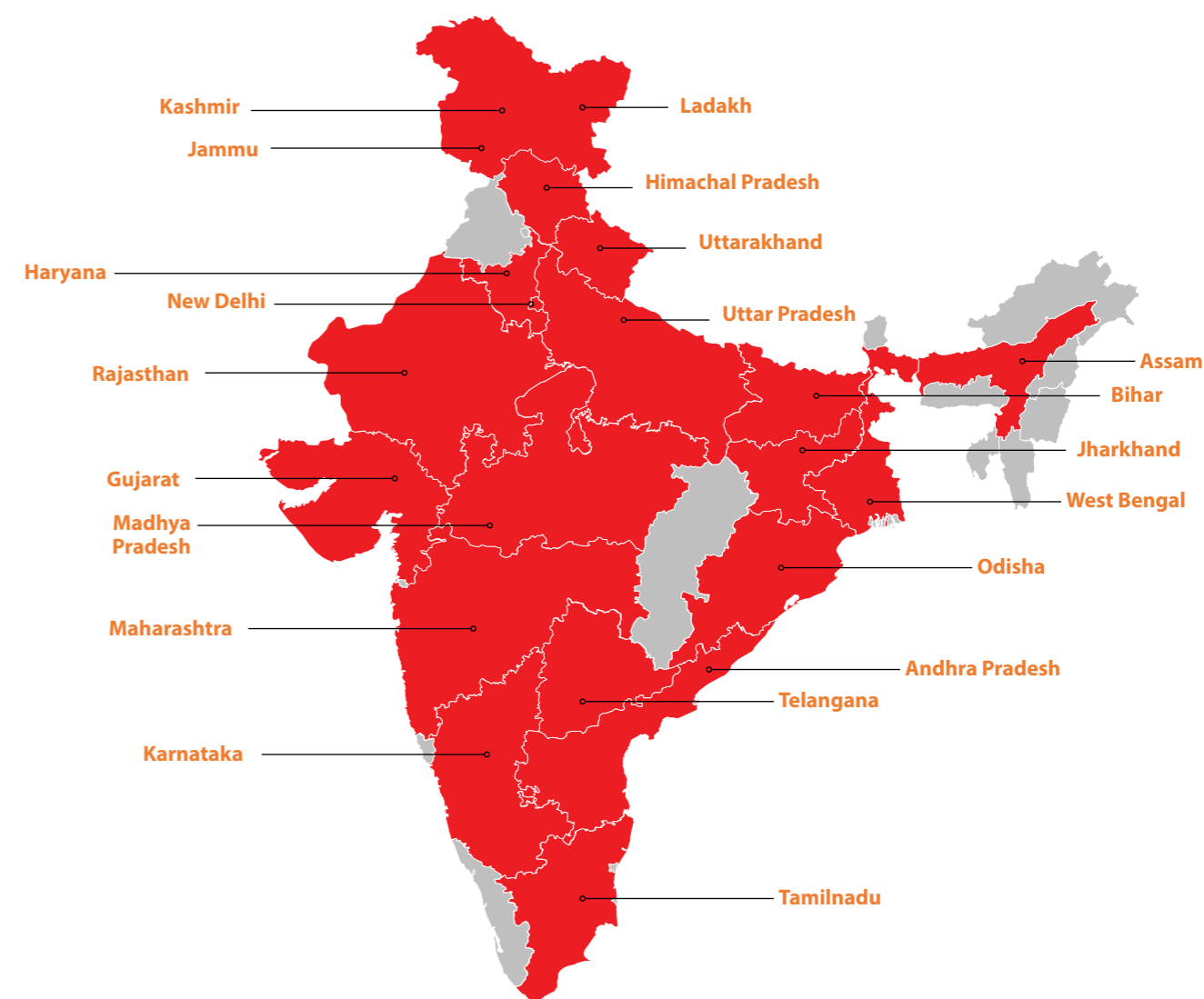
विकसित भारत की ओर

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Geographical Presence of Programmes till March 2024



Vision

Build a world where every child has the right to survival, protection, development & participation.



Mission

To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting changes in their lives.

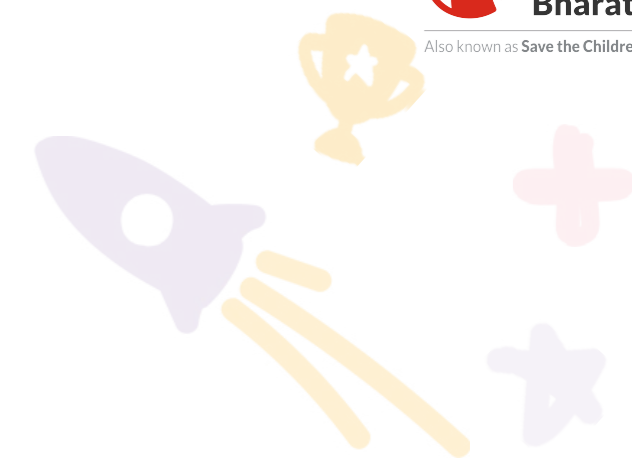
Executive Summary

The Bal Raksha Bharat Annual Report for 2023-24 is a testimony to our journey of resilience, hope, and impactful change. While our mission to safeguard and nurture the most vulnerable children remains steadfast, the shift to a localized identity reflects a strategic evolution designed to enhance the relevance, impact, and sustainability of our programs. This report chronicles our achievements, milestones, and the innovative programs that have marked our progress in the last one year.

Our transition to a localized brand identity, “Bal Raksha Bharat,” was a pivotal moment that required strategic adjustments. We strengthened our community-centric approach, ensuring that our programs were tailored to the specific needs of local populations. Through this localization, we enhanced our program effectiveness, built stronger community engagement, and sustained our impact through innovative fundraising strategies.

This report highlights our significant achievements, including empowering youth through education and skill-building, and forming key partnerships that have been instrumental in sustaining our efforts. Our commitment to transparency and efficiency is reflected in our audited financial statements, while our success stories and case studies demonstrate the tangible impact of our work.

As we look to the future, Bal Raksha Bharat remains dedicated to continuing this momentum, scaling our impact, and building a brighter, more equitable future for all children.



Chairperson's Note



Dear Friends and Supporters,

It gives me immense pride to present the Bal Raksha Bharat Annual Report for 2023-24. This year's report is more than just a reflection on our past accomplishments; it is a celebration of our resilience and a reaffirmation of our unwavering commitment to the welfare of children in India.

The journey we embarked upon with the adoption of our localized brand identity, "Bal Raksha Bharat," was filled with both challenges and opportunities. It spurred us to innovate and adapt in ways that have strengthened our organization. This pivotal moment in our history challenged us to think creatively, to re-envision our strategies, and to deepen our roots within the communities we serve.

In embracing a localized approach, we were able to pivot our operations, making our interventions more culturally relevant and community-centered. Our programs are now more finely tuned to address the unique needs of each region, and this has enabled us to create lasting, meaningful impact. By aligning more closely with local values and priorities, we have not only ensured the relevance of our initiatives but have also fostered greater ownership and engagement among our stakeholders—whether they be the children we serve, their families, or our dedicated partners.

This year's successes are a direct result of our collective efforts. They stand as a testament to the



indomitable spirit of our team, our partners, and the communities we serve. From expanding our geographical reach to developing innovative solutions in education, health, and child protection, every achievement highlighted in this report is a reminder of what we can accomplish when we work together.

One of the most notable milestones has been the astounding success of our partnership with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). This collaboration has not only strengthened our capacity to address and mitigate disaster risks but has also set new benchmarks for government partnerships in the field. Through joint initiatives, we have been able to enhance disaster preparedness, develop cutting-edge response strategies, and significantly increase the resilience of vulnerable communities. The impact of this partnership underscores the power of combining expertise and resources to create lasting, meaningful change.

As we move forward, I am confident that Bal Raksha Bharat will continue to lead the way in creating lasting change for the most vulnerable children in our society. We are not just adapting to challenges—we are seizing them as opportunities to grow stronger and more effective. The future we envision is one where every child in India can thrive, free from the constraints of poverty, violence, and inequality.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have supported us on this journey. Your commitment, passion,

and belief in our mission have been the cornerstone of our success. As we continue to evolve and adapt, your partnership will be more crucial than ever. Together, we will continue to build a brighter, safer, and more equitable future for all children.

Thank you for standing with us.

With Gratitude,

Deepak Kapoor
Chairperson



One of the most notable milestones has been the astounding success of our partnership with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). This collaboration has not only strengthened our capacity to address and mitigate disaster risks but has also set new benchmarks for government partnerships in the field.

CEO's Note



From October 2024 onwards

Our commitment to the Government of India aligns seamlessly with its vision for a Viksit Bharat. We are proud to contribute to this national agenda by focusing on child development, education, and protection—key pillars in building a prosperous and inclusive India.

Dear Partners and Colleagues,

The past year has been a defining one for Bal Raksha Bharat. As we present the Annual Report for 2023-24, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and pride for what we have achieved together.

Our decision to wholeheartedly adopt our registered name “Bal Raksha Bharat” for all official purposes and external visibility marked the beginning of a new chapter in our organization’s history. This change was not just cosmetic; it was a strategic move that allowed us to align more closely with the communities we serve. By embracing a name that resonates deeply with the people of India, we have been able to forge stronger connections and amplify the impact of our work at the grassroots level.

The challenges we faced could have derailed our efforts. Instead, they became catalysts for innovation and growth. We have had to rethink our approach to funding, to building a more sustainable model grounded in local partnerships and community support. This shift has not only transformed our fundraising strategy but has also empowered us to become more self-reliant and resilient.

This report captures the essence of our journey over the last one year. From enhancing our program design to ensuring financial sustainability through localized funding models, we have made significant strides in advancing our mission. We have



doubled down on our efforts in education, skill-building, and child protection, ensuring that every initiative is tailored to the specific needs of the communities we serve. The expansion of our partnerships within India has further enabled us to reach more children, empower more communities, and create a more inclusive society.

Over the past year, Bal Raksha Bharat has significantly expanded its reach, engaging with over 575,706 children across 18 states in India. Our broad geographical spread underscores our commitment to impacting diverse communities, ensuring that our programs reach those most in need. Our work has been bolstered by the support of 32 corporate donors who have partnered with us through CSR projects. These collaborations have enabled us to implement a wide array of initiatives tailored to local needs, further advancing our mission of fostering a safer, more inclusive environment for every child.

Our accomplishments this year are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team, the unwavering support of our partners, and the trust placed in us by the communities we serve. Every milestone we’ve achieved has been possible because of the collective efforts of each individual associated with Bal Raksha Bharat.

Our commitment to the Government of India aligns seamlessly with its vision for a Viksit Bharat. We are proud to contribute to this national agenda by focusing on

child development, education, and protection—key pillars in building a prosperous and inclusive India. By empowering the next generation, we are directly supporting the country’s goals of economic growth, social justice, and sustainable development.

As we look ahead, our commitment to making a difference remains steadfast. We will continue to build on our successes, learn from our experiences, and strive for greater impact in the years to come. We will also remain agile and adaptive, ready to respond to the ever-changing landscape of challenges that affect children in India. Our vision for the future is clear: to ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow up safe, educated, and empowered, regardless of their circumstances.

I am deeply thankful to our team, our partners, and all our supporters for their dedication and belief in our vision. Together, we are making a difference, and together, we will continue to drive change for the children of India.

Sincerely,

Santanu,
Chief Executive Officer



Leadership



Sudarshan
CEO
Till October 2024



Santanu
Director - Programme Support
Till September 2024



Subhashish Neogi
Director - Finance



Shweta Malhotra
Head - Organisational Development & Governance Affairs



Chittapriyo Sadhu
Deputy Director - HR Operations
Till April 2024



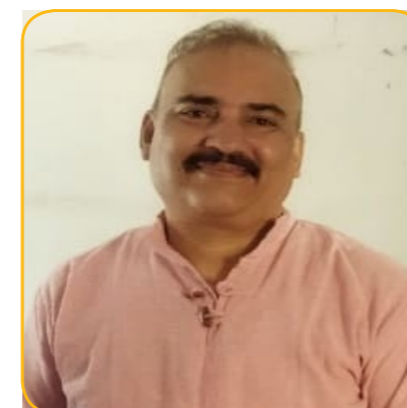
Avinash Singh
Deputy Director - Programme Management



Yasmin Riaz
Director - Resource Mobilisation
Till Dec 2023



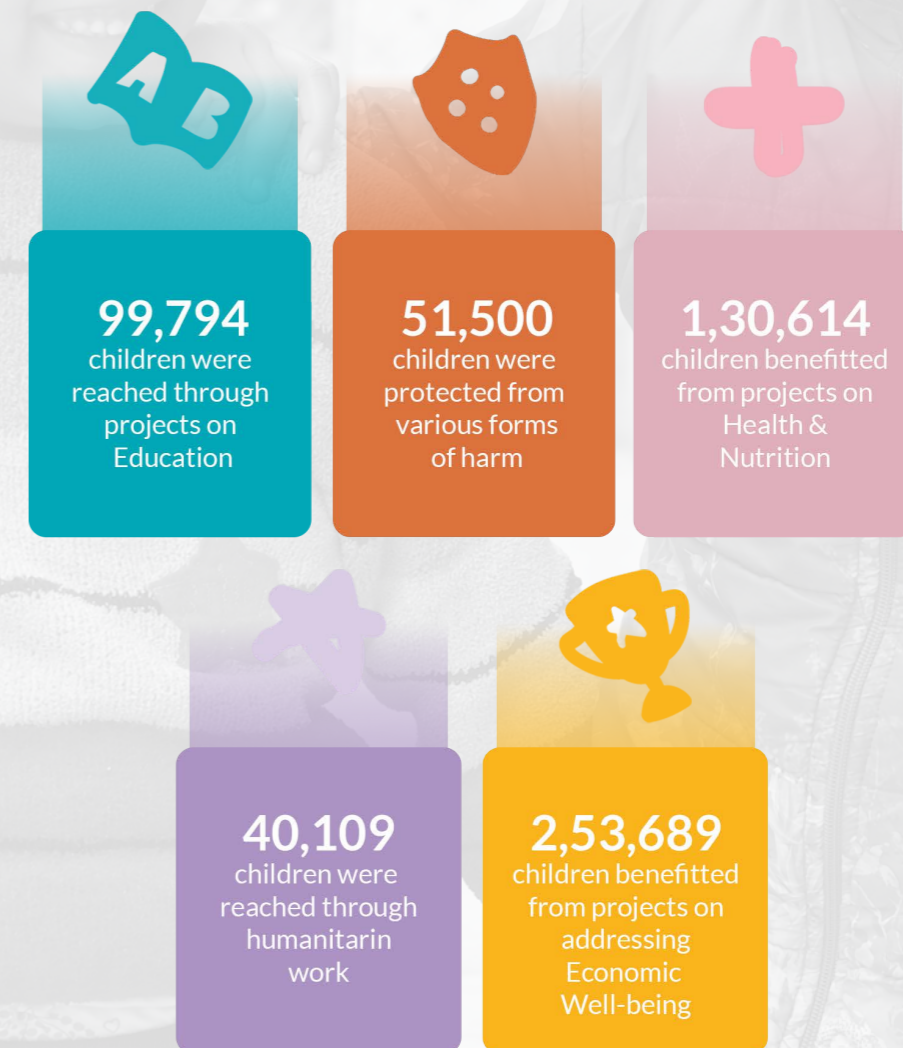
Ritu Mendiratta
Director - HR & Administration
August 2024 onwards



Sanjay Sharma
Deputy Director - Resource Mobilisation
November 2023 onwards

Impact in 2023

Lives of
5,75,706* children
changed through our
work last year



*April 2023 to March 2024



Reimagining Our Identity

Bal Raksha Bharat's Brand Refresh for a Stronger Future

The year 2023 marked a pivotal moment for our organization as we transitioned from the globally recognized brand of Save the Children, India, to fully embracing our Indian identity, Bal Raksha Bharat. This transformation was not just a rebranding exercise but a strategic shift aimed at aligning our efforts more closely to enhance effectiveness and tailoring impact through localisation. Our objective was to resonate more deeply with Indian audiences, stakeholders, and partners, while also addressing the evolving needs and aspirations of the communities we serve.

The Case for Localization

India's diverse cultural landscape requires a nuanced understanding of regional differences in child welfare needs. Issues that impact children across areas of education, health, nutrition, and protection, can vary significantly from one state to another.

Hence, localization was a strategic approach that emphasized the importance of adapting programs to the unique cultural, social, and economic contexts of different regions. For Bal Raksha Bharat, this meant moving beyond a one-size-fits-all model and developing tailored interventions that resonate with local communities. By doing so, we ensured that our programs become more relevant and have a greater impact. And our 'Brand Refresh' was reflective of our intent and commitment.

Milestones of Change

One of the significant achievements during this transition was the successful migration of our digital presence from the Save the Children domain to Bal Raksha Bharat. The rebranding also included a comprehensive redesign of our website, which have significantly improved user engagement and have been instrumental in increasing



our website's organic traffic by approximately 56.5% from Q1 2023 to Q1 2024, translating into an increase from 368,000 to 1.3 million users.

Maintaining the momentum and recognition associated with the Save the Children brand required a delicate balance of retaining the trust and goodwill of our existing supporters and partners while cultivating a fresh, distinct image that resonates with our Indian audience.

Our work across social media has been an area of notable achievement

here. The brand goodwill was reflective of this trust as we gained over 17,144 followers across our social media platforms and achieved a total reach of 30 million. Our videos and reels garnered 6.2 million views, while total engagement reached 1.7 million. These figures underscore our successful efforts in leveraging digital platforms to expand our reach and influence.

Strategic Vision for Bal Raksha Bharat

As we move forward, our vision for Bal Raksha Bharat is to establish it as a leading child rights organization

that is deeply integrated into India's developmental narrative. Our strategy involves forging stronger partnerships with corporates, governmental and non-governmental entities, leveraging technology for greater impact, and driving change that support child welfare and development.

Our transition is not merely a change in name but a reaffirmation of our mission to protect and nurture every child in India. As Bal Raksha Bharat, we will seize new opportunities, working tirelessly to build a future where every child can achieve their fullest potential.

Resource Mobilization

This report highlights the achievements and strategic evolution of the **Resource Mobilization (RM) team** during the fiscal year 2023-24. The transition from Save the Children to the Bal Raksha Bharat brand marked a significant shift in BRB's approach to resonate more deeply with Indian audiences. This localization strategy aimed to reinforce cultural relevance and emphasise its focus on addressing grassroots challenges in India.

The renewed **Resource Mobilization (RM) strategy** was designed to align more closely with its localization vision and deepen its impact across India. This refreshed approach reflects the organization's commitment to positioning itself as a homegrown brand while integrating innovative practices to sustain growth in a dynamic landscape.

The strategy centres on four key pillars: **Domestic Strategy, Delivery of Targets, Building and Retaining Partnerships, and New Initiatives**. By localizing its outreach and strengthening its operational frameworks, BRB has enhanced its ability to address India-specific challenges. The transition from Save the Children to Bal Raksha Bharat further solidified its identity, aligning its work with national priorities.

FY 2023-24 saw the Resource Mobilization team achieving significant milestones across multiple fundraising channels. Key Highlights were as follows -



The team surpassed fundraising expectations, achieving notable growth in contributions from institutional and corporate partners while exceeding benchmarks in Individual Giving.



A restructured Call Centre significantly improved donor retention rates, contributing to greater operational stability.



Following the brand transition to Bal Raksha Bharat, digital platforms regained strength, leading to increased engagement and a steady rise in donations.

These achievements highlight the team's adaptability and strategic focus in meeting both financial and programmatic objectives.

Collaborations with key stakeholders were instrumental in sustaining growth and scaling impact

- Partnerships with leading companies provided substantial support for **humanitarian and development** initiatives.
- BRB strengthened relationships with prominent agencies like **Niti Aayog** and **NIDM**, integrating efforts with government schemes to amplify reach.
- Major events, including the **Nutrition Symposium at IIT Mumbai** and the **Peace Education National Seminar in Srinagar**, demonstrated BRB's thought leadership and strengthened its sector presence.

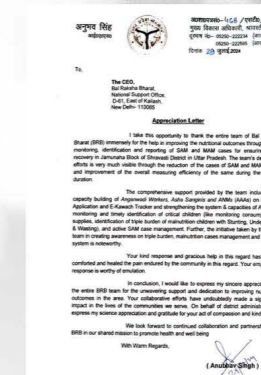
The introduction of innovative approaches ensured readiness for future challenges

- New initiatives launched in the latter half of FY 23-24 are expected to drive growth in FY 24-25.
- Enhanced use of digital tools and data analytics improved donor targeting and personalized communication, supporting Individual Giving programs.
- Pilot programs with localized implementation strategies laid the groundwork for expanded operations across India.

As the organization moves into FY 24-25, the refreshed brand, restructured teams, and a sharp focus on innovative fundraising approaches position the Resource Mobilization function for sustained growth, ensuring that the organisation continues to expand its reach and impact across India.

Gratitude to Our Donors

- Acuity Knowledge Services (India) Private Limited**
- Atlas Export Enterprises (TESCO)**
- Bruised Passports**
- FieldCore Service Solutions International India Pvt Ltd**
- GIVE India Foundation**
- H&M Hennes & Mauritz Retail Private Limited**
- H&M Services Private Limited**
- HCL Foundation**
- IQVIA RDS Pvt Ltd**
- K Corp Charitable Foundation**
- Marks and Spencer**
- Nokia (NSN & NIPL)**
- NortonLifeLock (Symantec India)**
- Procter & Gamble**
- Pureplay Skin Sciences (India) Private Limited**
- Sattva Media and Consulting Pvt. Ltd**
- SEIL Energy India LTD**
- Shahi Exports Private Limited**
- SP Apparel (TESCO)**
- Takeda**
- Welspun (TESCO)**
- Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited**



A Shining Beacon of Hope

I want to express my gratitude to Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Chauhan, the Health and Wellness Ambassador (HWA) for her dedication. She has set a shining example for us by practicing what she preaches and encouraging us to do the same", mentioned Radhika's mother Girja Chauhan.

In the serene village of Hariram Ka Pura, nestled in the Gohad Block of Bhind district, Madhya Pradesh, there lived a young girl named Radhika Chauhan. Her story is a remarkable transformation of resilience, learning, and change.

In the little village, most people were engaged in agricultural labor and factory work to make ends meet. Radhika's life used to be quite different in the past. She was frail and hardly ever participated in any activities in her school. Undernutrition was a pressing issue, and her daily bouts of stomach pain made attending school a challenge.

Radhika's mother, Smt. Girja Chauhan, disclosed that they regularly used to consume leftover snacks and fast food like momo, samosas. Which had adversely affected Radhika's

health. This forced Radhika towards frequent absenteeism from school and hindered her education. Similar challenge was faced by many other children in Radhika's school.

With the introduction of 'Eat Right School Program' in her school things started changing slowly. The project introduced interesting methods like, cooking demonstration, competition etc. to make home-made recipes popular and interesting among children.

Little Radhika was one of the active

participants in these workshops. She was transformed from a quiet, frail girl to a confident, self-assured individual, following the training programmes. She was instrumental in replacing the lock from our school's restroom door, which had been a problem for a long time. This small change made a big difference in her as well as her peers' life.

Today, Radhika, along with her friends Annu and Preeti, has adopted a healthy lifestyle, and they're no longer tempted by unhealthy snacks. They continue to inspire the teachers, their peers and their families to make

positive changes in daily life. Radhika and her mother, Mrs. Girja Chauhan, have shown that with determination and the right knowledge, we can all lead healthier and more fulfilling lives.

Together, we can make a positive change in our lives and our communities. It's time to eat right, stay healthy, and spread the message of cleanliness and well-being far and wide.

As I joined this program, it opened my eyes to the importance of nutrition and cleanliness. I realized that

eating street food, which was often prepared in reused and unhealthy oils, was detrimental to our health. It could lead to illnesses that would affect our ability to attend school and concentrate on our studies", mentioned little Radhika.

To spread this message further, with support from school authorities, Nutrition Fair was organised. During this fair, participants from the community learned about the importance of nutrition and cleanliness. Workshops were also conducted to develop leadership skills in children.



Little Radhika was one of the active participants in these workshops. She was transformed from a quiet, frail girl to a confident, self-assured individual, following the training programmes.

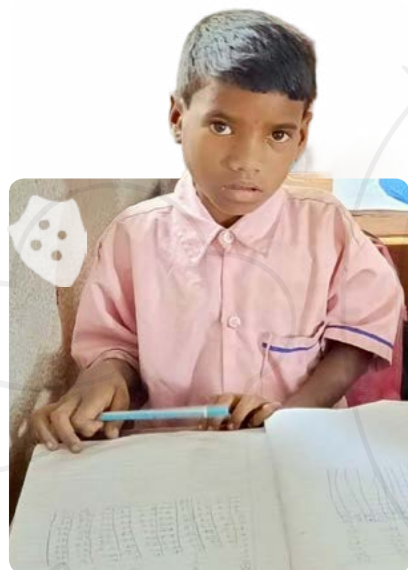
She was instrumental in replacing the lock from our school's restroom door, which had been a problem for a long time. This small change made a big difference in her as well as her peers' life.

To day, Radhika, along with her friends Annu and Preeti, has adopted a healthy lifestyle, and they're no longer tempted by unhealthy snacks. They continue to inspire the teachers, their peers and their families to make positive changes in daily life.

Radhika and her mother, Mrs. Girja Chauhan, have shown that with determination and the right knowledge, we can all lead healthier and more fulfilling lives.

Together, we can make a positive change in our lives and our communities. It's time to eat right, stay healthy, and spread the message of cleanliness and well-being far and wide

Those Who Try Never Lose



Asha Jamunda, a 7-year-old girl from Banka village in Loharda, West Singhbhum is a student at Primary School Banka, where she was enrolled last year at the age of 6. Due to her family's dire financial situation, both of her parents work to support their five children, including Asha, who is the youngest. Her father is a cattle herder, and her mother works in household chores and agricultural labour. Given the close age gaps between Asha and her siblings, the parents could not afford to give special attention to her education.

Asha's educational progress was significantly hindered by her family's financial constraints and lack of support. She struggled with basic literacy, unable to recognize or write letters and numbers. Her difficulties led to feelings of inadequacy compared to her peers, causing her to attend school irregularly. This lack of consistency further diminished her confidence and academic performance.

Recognizing the challenges Asha

faced, the teachers at her school were determined to help her, despite limited resources. Bal Raksha Bharat intervened by emphasizing "learning through play," a method that promotes education in an engaging and interactive manner. Both teachers received specialized training on this approach and were provided with educational kits from Bal Raksha Bharat, which included materials and guidelines for effective use.

The teachers incorporated these new tools into their daily lessons and began giving Asha additional, personalized instruction. They dedicated extra time to address her

specific needs and foster a supportive learning environment.

The intervention yielded remarkable results. Asha began to recognize letters and numbers, and her enthusiasm for learning increased. Her regular attendance improved, and with consistent support from her teachers, her educational performance gradually enhanced. Asha now participates fully in class, her confidence has grown, and she integrates well with her peers. Her overall morale has seen a significant boost, reflecting the positive impact of the tailored educational approach and dedicated support.



Dreams Rekindled: Sana Pathan's Pursuit of Her Dreams

I am happy to see the hard work of my child has been successful. I sincerely share my gratitude to every support that we received through this project, for Sana's achievement, mentioned Shabana, mother of Sana

Sana Pathan, an ambitious Class XI student from Nellore district, has faced significant challenges on her path to academic success. Born into a family where her father, Pathan Daood, runs a grocery store and her mother, Shabana, is a homemaker. Sana has always been a bright and dedicated student. Her journey, however, took a difficult turn due to unforeseen circumstances that tested her agility and determination.

Her academic journey began at DAV School, where she consistently excelled in her studies. Known for her diligence and enthusiasm, she was always among the top students in her class. Her dream was to become a software engineer, a goal she pursued with unwavering focus and commitment.

Tragedy struck when her father met with an accident, plunging the family into a severe financial crisis. With medical bills mounting and the family's primary source of income disrupted, Sana's parents could no longer afford the fees for her private school education. This forced Sana and her younger brother to transfer

to a government school, a transition that was both challenging and disheartening for them.

The financial strain and change in school environment took a toll on Sana, leading to a period of depression. It was during this difficult time that Bal Raksha Bharat and the SIEL project of ensuring quality education in government schools stepped in. Recognizing her potential and the need for additional support, Sana and children like her were provided with remedial classes through Academic Support Facilitators (ASF) from the intervention. These classes were crucial in helping her prepare for her Class 10th board examinations.

The intervention and support Sana received proved to be transformative. With the help of the remedial classes, she was able to overcome her academic challenges and excel in her board exams. Her hard work and the support from Bal Raksha Bharat and SIEL paid off when she achieved high scores and became the school topper in her Class 10th boards. This achievement not only boosted her confidence but also rekindled her dream of becoming a software engineer.

Reflecting on her journey, Sana says, "The support I received during my toughest times gave me hope and strength. It made me realize that no matter how difficult the situation, with the right help and determination, anything is possible."

Currently, Sana is pursuing her Intermediate Course (Class XI) at a nearby Junior College. She remains grateful for the critical quality

education support that helped her during a pivotal time in her life. With renewed determination and a clear vision of her future, Sana continues to strive towards her goal.

Sana Pathan's story is evidence to the power of resilience and the impact of timely support and intervention. Despite facing significant hardships, she has emerged stronger and more determined to achieve her dreams. Her journey inspires others to believe in their potential and the importance of support systems in overcoming life's challenges.

Bal Raksha Bharat with support from SEIL aims to support the improvement in quality of education in Government Schools. The project targets students in classes VI to IX in 20 Government Schools covering 3 Mandals of Muthukuru, TP Guduru & Nellore Rural in SPSR Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh. The key strategies that shall be adopted for achieving results at scale is to build teacher capacities with a special focus on Teacher preparation with mapping pre-requisites on subjects, encouraging peer learning, adopting innovative teaching methods, language across the curriculum and engagement of community to bring a quality learning for the children.



NOKIA Sponsored Smartpur Programme

Transforming Rural Communities through Digital Inclusion
(Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan)



The NOKIA Smartpur Programme, aligned with the brand 'Bal Raksha Bharat' (BRB), has been instrumental in transforming rural communities across India through its innovative digital inclusion initiatives. The programme's third phase, launched in March 2020, marked a significant shift in focus towards enhancing access to essential services such as healthcare, education, financial inclusion, good governance, livelihood skill building, environment, and waste management, all through technological advancements. This chapter outlines the key initiatives and changes implemented during the reporting period to improve program effectiveness and efficiency while aligning with BRB's mission and global presence.

Key Initiatives and Strategic Enhancements

Infrastructure Development and Skilled Human Resources

To support the expanded focus on multiple service areas, the Smartpur Programme invested heavily in developing robust infrastructure for its digital centers. This included upgrading facilities with advanced technology and ensuring that centers were staffed with skilled human resources capable of delivering high-quality services. By enhancing the infrastructure and technological capabilities of the Smartpur centers, the programme ensured that rural communities could access a broad range of digital services efficiently.

Community Mobilization and Beneficiary Engagement

A critical component of the programme's strategy was the mobilization of local communities. This involved the identification and registration of potential beneficiaries, ensuring that those most in need could benefit from the services provided by the Smartpur centers. Through grassroots efforts, such as door-to-door campaigns and community meetings, the programme effectively raised awareness about available services and encouraged community members to participate actively.

Awareness Sessions and Camps

To further engage the community, the Smartpur Programme organized a series of awareness sessions and camps focused on social protection schemes, financial inclusion, and

health. These events served to educate community members about their rights and the various government schemes available to them. By providing information and resources, the programme empowered individuals to take advantage of opportunities for financial stability, better health, and improved governance.

Long-Standing Partnerships and Government Relations

The success of the Smartpur Programme is also attributable to its long-standing partnerships and strong relationships with government entities in intervention geographies. By collaborating with local governments and aligning its goals with national development priorities, the programme was able to facilitate smoother implementation of its initiatives. These partnerships also helped in leveraging additional resources and support, further enhancing the impact of the Smartpur centers.

Brand Alignment and Global Presence

Throughout the reporting period, the Smartpur Programme remained closely aligned with the brand values of Bal Raksha Bharat. Leveraging BRB's global presence, the programme was able to attract international attention and support, which helped in scaling its operations and expanding its reach. The alignment with BRB also reinforced the programme's commitment to child protection and community development, which are core tenets of



the organization's mission.

Sustainable and Tangible Impacts

The initiatives undertaken by the Smartpur Programme have resulted in sustainable and tangible impacts across multiple domains. By focusing on technological advancement and digital inclusion, the programme has improved access to essential services for rural communities, leading to increased educational attainment, enhanced livelihood opportunities, better health outcomes, and greater financial inclusion. These impacts are not only immediate but also have long-term benefits for community resilience and development.

Strategic Innovations and Implementation

Over the course of the 2023-24 fiscal year, the NOKIA Smartpur Programme implemented several strategic innovations to enhance the effectiveness of its initiatives and expand its reach:

Digital Infrastructure and Skilled Human Resources: The programme established 280 Smartpur Digital



Centres across 160 Panchayats in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, and Maharashtra. These centres were equipped with state-of-the-art technology and staffed with skilled personnel, enabling the delivery of high-quality digital services. This infrastructure upgrade was crucial in ensuring that the centres could efficiently serve a large number of beneficiaries across various service areas.

Community Mobilization and Beneficiary Registration: A key aspect of the programme's strategy involved

the mobilization of local communities and the identification and registration of potential beneficiaries. By engaging with community members through awareness sessions and camps on social protection schemes, financial inclusion, and health, the programme was able to build trust and ensure widespread participation.

Integration with Government Services: To maximize the impact of the Smartpur Centres, the programme established linkages with relevant government departments and service providers. This integration facilitated the provision of digital and online services under the five key pillars, connecting community members to essential resources such as government schemes, banking services, and healthcare.

Focus on Sustainable Development: The Smartpur Programme also emphasized sustainable development through initiatives like the Green & Smart School Project. This project aimed to improve school infrastructure and enhance the quality of academic education in five schools in Nashik and Dungarpur districts of

Maharashtra and Rajasthan, creating a holistic and enriching learning environment for students.

Impact and Achievements

The impact of the Smartpur Programme during the 2023-24 fiscal year was substantial, demonstrating the effectiveness of its strategic approach and the value of its digital centres:

Education

The programme reached 23,809 beneficiaries through its education services, helping to improve literacy rates and skill levels among rural youth. The digital centres offered access to a wide range of educational resources, including online courses and vocational training programs.

Financial Inclusion

Financial literacy and inclusion were major focus areas, with the programme connecting 556,129 community members to banking services. This effort helped promote economic independence and financial stability within rural communities, fostering a culture of saving and responsible financial management.

Governance

The Smartpur Centres played a critical role in enhancing local governance by providing 1,202,830 individuals with access to governance-related

services. This increased awareness and participation in local governance processes, empowering community members to engage more effectively with government authorities accessing the public services.

Health

Access to healthcare services was significantly improved through the Smartpur Programme, with 9,722 beneficiaries utilizing the health services provided at the centres. This initiative reduced the opportunity cost for patients by lowering the time and money spent on diagnostic tests and medical consultations.



Livelihood

The programme also focused on enhancing livelihood opportunities for rural residents by providing vocational and livelihood training to 28,990 people. This training helped increase income levels and employment opportunities, contributing to the overall economic development of rural communities.



Success Story

Empowering Rural Entrepreneurs

A notable success story from the Smartpur Programme is that of Nisha Vyas, an entrepreneur from Punali, Dungarpur, Rajasthan. Through the support and resources provided by the Smartpur Center, Nisha was able to generate a revenue of ₹755,665 in FY 2023-24, making her the highest financial revenue generator among the programme's beneficiaries. Nisha's success illustrates the transformative impact of the Smartpur Programme on individual livelihoods and highlights the potential for rural entrepreneurship to drive economic growth.

Quantitative and Qualitative Measures of Success

The success of the Smartpur Programme is evidenced by both quantitative and qualitative metrics:

Total Beneficiaries: The programme reached a total of 1,821,480 beneficiaries in FY 2023-24, reflecting its broad impact across multiple service areas.

Financial Transactions: The total financial value of transactions processed through the Smartpur Centres in FY 2023-24 amounted to ₹1,100,151,605, demonstrating the economic significance of the programme.

Sustainability and Community Engagement: The handover of 160 Smartpur Digital Centres to local

Centre Management Committees by June 2024 ensured the sustainability of the initiative and empowered communities to take ownership of the digital infrastructure.

The NOKIA Smartpur Programme is a model of digital inclusion that demonstrates the power of technology to transform rural communities. By providing access to essential services across education, livelihood, governance, financial inclusion, and health, the programme has significantly improved the quality of life for millions of rural residents. Through its innovative

approach, strategic partnerships, and commitment to sustainable development, the Smartpur Programme continues to empower communities and pave the way for a digitally inclusive future.

The success of the programme underscores the importance of digital infrastructure and community engagement in driving socio-economic development. As the Smartpur Programme expands and evolves, it will continue to play a crucial role in bridging the digital divide and fostering inclusive growth in rural India.

Success Story

Ajay Doley's Effort to Empower Rural India

Amidst the verdant fields and bustling village in Dhemaji district of Assam, Ajay Doley stands out as an exemplifier of change. At 32, with a humble educational background, Ajay took on the mantle of a village-level entrepreneur under NOKIA-Bal Raksha Bharat's visionary project, "Impacting Rural India through Digital Inclusion."

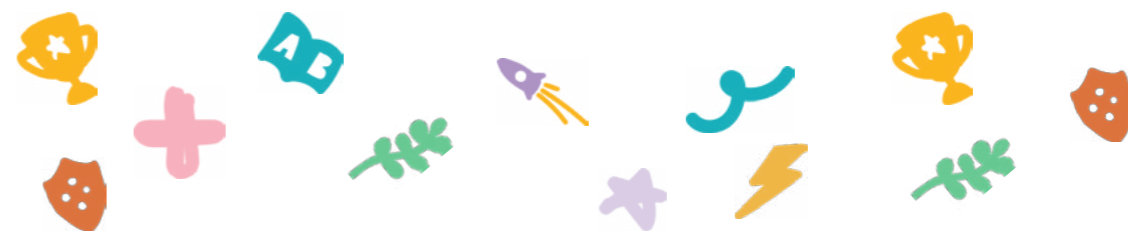
Since December 2022, Ajay has managed the Smartpur Digital Centre in his village, focusing on connecting his community with essential government welfare schemes through digital platforms.

Ajay played a crucial role in the "PM Kisan Samman Nidhi" scheme, which provides income support to farmers. When the Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare launched an E-KYC campaign to rectify document gaps, Ajay completed 339 E-KYCs, earning him the prestigious second position nationwide. His efforts brought significant benefits to his community and showcased the power of grassroots entrepreneurship in advancing digital inclusion.

In Assam alone, 30 such centers have been established to date. The overarching goal has been to amplify

the reach of digital services across crucial sectors such as Health, Governance, Education, Livelihood, and Financial Inclusion.

Ajay Doley's story is not just about individual achievement; it is a testament to the power of grassroots' innovation and community-driven change. Through initiatives like Smartpur, rural India is not just embracing technology; it's harnessing it to shape a brighter, more inclusive future for all, thus envisioning the government's dream for a 'Digitised Bharat'.



Peace Education & Breath of Life

(Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh)



Promoting Quality Education through Culture of Peace and Safe Learning Environments

The “Promoting Quality Education through Culture of Peace and Safe Learning Environments” project, funded by the HCL Foundation, is focused on fostering peace and safety in 60 government-run schools across Budgam (J&K) and Leh (Ladakh) from March 2020 to February 2025. Its goals are to establish peace and harmony in schools, engage communities, and collaborate with governments in promoting peace education. With a target of directly benefiting 4,488 individuals, the project has already reached 10,242 beneficiaries, including children, teachers, School Management Committees (SMCs), and government officials. Achievements include the establishment of peace practices in over 300 schools, improved school safety, reduced absenteeism, and increased enrolment and community involvement.

Key milestones in 2023-2024 included the National Level Conference on Peace Education, held in collaboration with the University of Kashmir and the Directorate of School Education. The event, aligning with the G20 Presidency and National Education Policy 2020, launched the Comprehensive School Safety (CSS) Module. Over 1,000 participants attended, and the CSS Module has since been implemented in 300 schools, enhancing safety and reducing absenteeism. Additionally, a District-Level Steering Committee on Peace Education was established in Leh-Ladakh, training over 450 teachers, 500 SMC members, and 800 children in peace education and school safety.

Innovations include the creation and dissemination of IEC materials on safety and child protection, developed in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education. These materials have improved awareness in schools. Further, the Sports for Change initiative has promoted sports participation and leadership skills among marginalized communities, with over 70 children qualifying for

national-level events. Enhanced coordination between departments through joint monitoring visits and formal meetings has led to improved child protection mechanisms and school safety plans.

Overall, the project has made significant strides in promoting quality education, peace, and child protection in J&K and Ladakh. Through strategic collaborations, innovative approaches, and robust stakeholder engagement, the initiative aligns with the brand objectives and has positively impacted education in the region.

Breath of Life – System Strengthening to Combat Childhood Pneumonia Management

The Programme has made significant strides in addressing critical child health issues, particularly in the realm of pneumonia management under the “Breath of Life” initiative. This programme aligns with the broader goals of Bal Raksha Bharat (BRB) and complements national and state-level health strategies. It operates with a focus on both system strengthening and community engagement, ensuring that key health interventions are delivered effectively to the most vulnerable populations.

The “Breath of Life” project is a dedicated effort to reduce pneumonia-specific mortality among children under the age of five in the Kashmir region. Spanning from October 2024 to September 2026, this project covers eight districts,



including Anantnag, Kulgam, Budgam, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Baramulla, and Kupwara. Its primary objective is to enhance pneumonia management by working closely with healthcare providers, government bodies, and local communities.

Throughout 2023-2024, the project made notable progress in strengthening childhood pneumonia management systems. This progress was driven by strategic innovations, including the successful launch of a mega state-level workshop that brought together government officials, partner organisations, and local representatives. This event set the tone for the programme’s implementation, ensuring that stakeholders were well-informed about their roles and responsibilities. It also fostered improved coordination among various health and administrative bodies, creating a more integrated approach to pneumonia management.

Another significant development was the formation of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), which brought together experts from medical colleges, the National Health Mission (NHM), and various NGOs. The TAG played a vital role in providing strategic guidance and technical oversight, ensuring that the programme maintained high standards of care and effectiveness. Their involvement in training, knowledge sharing, and problem-solving was crucial in refining strategies and

overcoming operational challenges. A comprehensive assessment of 88 healthcare facilities across the region further strengthened the programme’s foundation. The evaluation provided insights into the readiness of healthcare facilities in managing childhood pneumonia, highlighting areas for improvement. This led to targeted interventions, such as training for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in Srinagar’s Harwan Block. ASHAs were equipped with the necessary skills to identify and manage pneumonia cases early, reducing the burden on higher-level healthcare facilities and improving outcomes for children at the community level.

The project also prioritised community awareness through a large-scale campaign in collaboration with the University of Kashmir’s Department of Social Work. This initiative reached over 12,992 individuals, educating them on pneumonia prevention and the importance of early diagnosis. Additionally, platforms like Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) were utilised to promote local capacity building and engage communities in the fight against pneumonia.

These strategic efforts have led to a marked increase in community engagement, improved care-seeking behaviours, and enhanced pneumonia management at both the facility and community levels. The Breath of Life project has thus made significant

strides toward reducing childhood pneumonia mortality, with future plans focused on replicating the successful Harwan block model across the region, introducing a mobile health application for case tracking, and establishing a pneumonia skill lab to train medical practitioners.

Future Directions and Expansion of Health Interventions

Looking ahead, the PIU’s focus will remain on the continued enhancement of child health services across the region. In addition to pneumonia management, the PIU is working to integrate mobile health applications into government health systems, which will further improve case tracking and resource allocation for pneumonia cases. There is also an emphasis on scaling up the Breath of Life model to other blocks and districts, ensuring a broader reach and more significant impact.

The unit will continue to provide targeted training to frontline workers, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to manage childhood diseases effectively. Engagement with Govt. efforts will persist, aimed at improving reporting mechanisms for pneumonia and other health issues, ensuring that district-level officials are actively involved in the project’s success.

With a focus on both system strengthening and community empowerment, the PIU’s holistic approach to programme implementation ensures that critical health interventions reach the most vulnerable children. Through sustained efforts, ongoing innovation, and strategic partnerships, the PIU continues to make a significant contribution to the health and well-being of children in the Kashmir region and beyond.

Key Highlights/Achievements

2020-21



- Baseline study
- Covid19 measures and Community class initiatives
- 50% of school Upgradated with Beautification of walls
- 100% of Children group & SMC formed across all schools
- 50% of school provided with sports materials, Participation in Sports for change event
- 100% of school installed with suggestion boxes
- Consultations with key stakeholders on development of Module & SOP

2022-23



- 60 Children group & 60 SMC (School Mgt. Committee) trained on Peace Education, Schoolsafety and Childsafeguarding policy
- Launch of Module and SOPs on Comprehensive school safety and Child safeguarding at National consultation on Peace Education.
- Community engagment and positive dcipline of children through sports, Arts and cultural programmes conducted across all 60 schools. Participation at district, state and National level
- Establishment of Core Group for technical support in kashmir and Ladakh

2024-25



- Establishment of Child Protection Mechanism across 100% intervention schools of Leh and Budgam
- Govt to roll out School safety Audit and School Plan across all schools in Leh and Budgam
- Engagement with Govt. for mainstreaming Peace Education in the school education system
- Mainstreaming Peace Education into the teachers training programme across UT of Leh and Kashmir
- Documentation and dissemination of good practices on Peace Education for development of Way forward

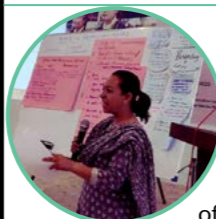


2021-22



- More than 70 Master trainers, Mid-level mangers trained in Leh and budgam On Peace Education
- More than 250 teachers trained on Peace Education, School safety and Security and child safeguarding policy in Kashmir division
- Multistakeholders committee formed and established
- Consultation on Peace Education at District, state and National
- Development of APP /Web based Training system on Peace Education. More than 1500 teachers,certified

2023-24



- SRG (Resource Group) trained on Peace Education in UT of Ladakh, Mid - Level Managers including ZEO (Zonal Education officer), HO's (Head of Institudes) and CEO (Chief Education officer)
- More than 150 teachers trained on Peace Education, School safety and Security, Positive Dicipline and child safeguarding policy in UT of Ladakh
- Module and SOP's developed on Peace Education for CG, Mid-Level Managers and Community members.
- Capacity building of CG, SMC and community on Positive engagement. increased enrollement by 18% in intervention schools



SUMMARY DASHBOARD Progress on KPI's (Key Performance Indicators)

The Peace Education Project lays stress on promoting and nurturing a culture of peace among children, developing attitudes, values and skills among teachers for organizing activities that contextualize peace education in schools. Peace Education has been crucial in promoting quality education in the UT of J&K and Ladakh. It aims at transformation of school as Zone of Peace in Govt. run schools of Budgam & Leh in 60 schools, and looking at scaling it up through an integrated approach, collaborating with different Govt. departments (Particularly Directorate of School Education, Mission Vatsalya, IMPA-RD, Universities) and other stakeholders to undertake peace education initiatives, safety audits, risk mapping, and child safeguarding - in classrooms, schools and neighborhoods. The larger ambition is to mainstream Peace Education into Education System

OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS	TARGET	BASELINE	MIDLINE
By 2025, 60 state-run schools adopt and demonstrate a culture of peace and harmony through active participation of children and teachers	% of trained teachers are practicing Peace Module in the schools	70%	0%	71%
	% of targeted schools are doing safety audit as mandated by the education department	70%	13%	22%
	% of targeted schools have minimum safety features	50%	32%	60%
	% of targeted state run schools have implemented child safeguarding policy	70%	32%	60%
	% of the targeted schools are enabled to implement the child protection policy by the government	50%	5%	53%
By 2025, Enhanced engagement of community in promoting a culture of peace and harmony at school and community levels	% of children groups (CG) in the targeted state run schools formed are functional	70%	7%	68%
	% of SMCs/VECs in the targeted state run schools formed are functional	70%	16%	77%
	% of children groups are aware and capacitated on peace building initiatives, child rights and protection.	60%	0%	81%
	% of SMCs/VECs are aware and capacitated on peace building initiatives, child rights and protection	60%	8%	62%
	% increase in school attendance	10%	75%	96%
By 2025, Peace education is promoted and strengthened across J&K in collaboration with the state government	% of relevant government officials have enhanced sensitivity and understanding on peace education	70%	17%	65%
	# of forums/platforms to share project evidence with government authorities	70%	0%	40%

Initiatives from Education Dept in taking Peace Education, School Safety Plan and Child Safeguarding Policy in and around schools has been tremendous. Community participation in creating school as ZOP (Zone of Peace)

Around 70% children Group and School Management Committes formed are funtional with continued meeting and participation Recommendation:

School Safety Audit across schools of J&K and Ladakh

CPP (Child Protection Policy) in schools of J&K and Ladakh

Linking children with ICPS (Mission Vatsalya) schemes

Cascade Trainings on Modules and SOPs developed on Peace Education for Children, Mid-level managers, Teachers and Community to all educators, children and communities

Inter coordination between departments to provide children with different schemes and platefrom for sports for Change





Eat Right Schools

Accelerating the FSSAI Initiative to enhance the health and nutrition status of children in schools

(Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, & Tamil Nadu)

Bal Raksha Bharat (BRB), in partnership with Mondelez India Foods Pvt. Ltd. and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), has launched the Eat Right Schools programme, aimed at fostering a culture of safe, nutritious, and sustainable eating practices among schoolchildren. The initiative seeks to build awareness on the importance of nutrition, food safety, and hygiene in shaping the physical and cognitive development of children, thereby supporting their overall well-being.

At the heart of this programme lies the objective to transform

schools into nutrition-conscious environments, where students, staff, and families collectively engage in healthy food practices. Through structured activities such as the formation of Sehat Clubs, the implementation of nutrition gardens, and food safety training (FoSTaC) for kitchen staff, BRB strives to instil long-lasting dietary habits in students.

The Eat Right Schools programme goes beyond classroom instruction, incorporating interactive and innovative Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) tools to actively engage students in health education. These tools, combined with the rigorous certification and hygiene rating of school kitchens, ensure that schools set the standard for safe food consumption, making them model institutions for promoting health and nutrition.

By creating empowered, health-conscious students, the programme aims to inspire a new generation to lead healthier lives and advocate for improved nutritional practices within their communities.

During the reporting period, significant initiatives were implemented to improve the overall effectiveness of Bal Raksha Bharat's (BRB) programs, ensuring alignment with the brand's objectives of promoting health, nutrition, and safety in schools. These innovations reflect BRB's commitment to enhancing the well-being of children through sustainable, educational, and impactful strategies. Below is an overview of the key approaches and their measurable impacts on the program's stakeholders and beneficiaries.



Strengthening of Sehat Clubs to Promote Healthy Habits in Schools

One of the most impactful initiatives has been the establishment and strengthening of Sehat Clubs, designed to foster a holistic approach to health education in schools. These clubs act as a dynamic platform for promoting not only physical health and hygiene but also mental well-being and nutritional education. The Sehat Clubs empower children as health advocates, where they learn and disseminate important messages on Safe and Nutritious Food (SNF) within their school environments. The introduction of Sehat Clubs has played a critical role in creating a participatory and inclusive atmosphere for learning. With 200 clubs formed across five states, and a membership base of 3,467 children democratically elected by their peers, these clubs have reached and sensitized over 34,327 students. This initiative has laid the foundation for an informed, health-conscious generation by equipping children with the tools and knowledge to make healthier choices. The engagement with students has also fostered leadership skills as children actively participate in shaping the health

agenda of their schools, promoting a culture of well-being that extends to their communities.

Development of Nutrition Gardens in Schools

To supplement the nutrition education provided by the Sehat Clubs, BRB introduced the development of nutrition gardens within school premises. These gardens offer a sustainable and cost-effective means of enhancing dietary intake with fresh, organic ingredients grown on-site. By connecting children with nature, these gardens promote self-sufficiency, foster a sense of responsibility, and provide an engaging, therapeutic form of horticulture.

The initiative was implemented across schools in Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, resulting in the development of 30 kitchen gardens. BRB partnered with the local agricultural university in Tamil Nadu to provide technical guidance, ensuring the success of the initiative. An exposure visit was also conducted in Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh, where BRB collaborated with the local NGO Darshana Mahila Kalyan Samiti. This visit highlighted the importance of safe wash practices and natural

tools for growing kitchen gardens in both schools and communities. The project not only provides fresh produce for the mid-day meals but also serves as a practical learning tool for students, reinforcing healthy eating habits that they can replicate at home.

Promoting Healthy behaviour through Interactive behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Tools

The focus on fostering health and nutrition awareness within schools has been further strengthened by the use of behaviour Change Communication (BCC) tools. BRB has implemented various communication initiatives using Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials. These include the development of creative and engaging resources like the "Healthy Diary," digital wall paintings, nutrition garden books, and sun boards for School Management Committees (SMC). Key messages such as "Eat Healthy, Eat Secure, Eat Sustainable" were communicated through fruit and vegetable calendars, posters, and interactive games like the Snake & Ladder activity.

These materials have had a transformative impact, not only by making classrooms more visually engaging but also by encouraging students to adopt healthier dietary practices. The behavioural change catalysed by these resources has been far-reaching, influencing not only students but their families as well. Children are now better equipped to make informed choices about their nutrition and hygiene. The concept of the "Rainbow Thali" (a plate representing diverse food groups) and awareness about the "5 F's" (Fly, Finger, Food, Faeces, and Fomites) have been central to driving home the importance of safe food handling and hygiene practices.

Food Safety Training (FoSTaC) and Hygiene Ratings for School Kitchens

Ensuring food safety in schools has been a priority for BRB, leading to the introduction of FoSTaC (Food Safety Training and Certification) training for kitchen handlers and a hygiene rating certification process for auditing school kitchens. This initiative supports the broader goal of certifying schools as “Eat Right Schools,” as part of the Eat Right School portal of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The process includes comprehensive training on proper food handling, storage, kitchen layout, and personal hygiene for mid-day meal staff.



Through this program, 246 food handlers were trained, and 97 kitchens were audited, ensuring that food safety standards are consistently met across the board. The initiative has fostered a culture of continuous improvement, leading to safer, cleaner environments for preparing and consuming food. The structured audit and certification process ensures that schools adhere to high standards, reflecting BRB’s commitment to food safety and hygiene in educational institutions.

Impact on Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

The initiatives implemented by Bal Raksha Bharat have had a profound impact on both students and school communities. The introduction of Sehat Clubs, the development of nutrition gardens, and the use of behaviour Change Communication (BCC) tools have collectively led to a significant increase in health awareness and positive behavioural changes among students. These programs have successfully created a more inclusive and dynamic learning environment, where the focus on health, well-being, and safety is integrated into daily school activities. Children have not only become more

informed about healthy habits but have also developed leadership skills through their involvement in the Sehat Clubs. By taking ownership of health initiatives, they are now actively engaged in promoting well-being within their schools and communities. This has extended beyond the classroom, as students influence their families and local networks to adopt healthier practices.

Additionally, the implementation of FoSTaC training for kitchen staff has resulted in safer and more nutritious meals being provided in schools. The enhanced food safety standards ensure that children are nourished in a secure environment, fostering better physical and cognitive development. Together, these initiatives have created a holistic framework that supports the overall growth and well-being of students, ensuring they thrive both academically and personally.

During the reporting period, several key quantitative milestones were achieved, reflecting the success and scale of the initiatives implemented by Bal Raksha Bharat. A total of 200 Sehat Clubs were activated, with 3,467 children participating

as active members. These clubs collectively reached and sensitized an impressive 34,327 students, fostering a widespread understanding of health and nutrition within schools.

In addition, 30 nutrition gardens were developed across three states, providing a sustainable source of fresh, organic produce for school meals while offering students hands-on learning opportunities in gardening and healthy eating.

On the food safety front, 246 food handlers were trained according to the Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) standards, ensuring that staff members were equipped with the knowledge and skills to maintain high standards of hygiene and food safety. Furthermore, 97 kitchens were audited for hygiene ratings, underscoring the programme’s commitment to providing safe and nutritious meals in school environments.

By weaving health and nutrition awareness into the fabric of school life, BRB has taken significant strides towards realizing its vision of nurturing healthier, more informed, and empowered young citizens.



Project 2 - Strengthening Health Ecosystem through Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centres

जन आरोग्य समिति बैठक रजिस्टर



Bal Raksha Bharat, in collaboration with Mondelez India Foods Pvt Ltd, has implemented a project titled “Strengthening Health Ecosystem through Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs).” The objective of the project is to support 200 selected Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs) across four states—Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh. The aim is to enhance their facilities and outreach services, benefiting over 1.45 million people. The health system

strengthening initiative operates in close coordination with Chief Medical Health Officers, Block Health Officers, Nodal Officers of AB-HWCs, Medical Officer In-charges, nursing staff, ANMs, and ASHAs at these centres located near Mondelez factory locations.

The specific objectives of the project include strengthening the HWCs to deliver quality Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) services through system improvements and technical assistance. A focus has been placed

on prioritizing services for new-borns, children, and adolescents while establishing forward and backward referral linkages. Additionally, the project aims to scale up learning and replicable models for health system strengthening, with a focus on gender-inclusive health and wellness centres.

The implementation process involved several key steps. Initially, sufficient manpower was positioned to ensure effective execution. Partnerships were formed with the health departments of the states, and facilities in need of transformation were identified. The project provided continuous handholding support and conducted extensive documentation to record progress and challenges.

User-Friendly Health and Wellness Centres

The Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centres are designed to provide comprehensive services, including preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care. These services ensure the clinical management of patients, care coordination, and continuity of care, particularly for chronic and critical cases. Public health functions such as health promotion, disease prevention, and outcome measurement for the population served are integral to these centres.

A key principle guiding the design of user-friendly health facilities is to ensure that services are delivered in a manner sensitive to gender, religious, and cultural needs. Discrimination on economic or social grounds is strictly prohibited. Care is collaborative, coordinated, and accessible, with an emphasis on physical comfort and



breastfeeding corners. After receiving approval, infrastructure construction began, followed by the supply of necessary equipment, including examination beds and medical kits. The health personnel received training on Ayushman Bharat requirements and how to use the equipment.

A significant focus was placed on creating gender-friendly HWCs by developing a Gender-Friendly and Social Inclusion Package. This included displaying IEC materials, orienting the staff, and organizing outreach sessions. Collaboration with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) was essential, as local governance bodies could leverage untied funds for facility improvements.

The efforts resulted in remarkable improvements in the condition of the facilities. Waiting areas with proper seating, toilets for patients and caregivers, handwashing stations, and breastfeeding corners were introduced. The construction of boundary walls and pits for safe medical waste disposal further enhanced the facilities. These improvements have led to a significant increase in outpatient footfall across all four states. For instance, in Maharashtra, SHCs supported by BRB have seen a 30-40% increase in service seekers due to the improved facilities.

Functional Jan Arogya Samitis

The Jan Arogya Samiti (JAS) plays a crucial role in effective health planning and monitoring at the community level. Formed with representation from healthcare staff, elected representatives, frontline workers, and community members, the JAS is empowered to plan and monitor health services. However, in many areas, JAS has remained a paper activity without real engagement at the ground level. Many individuals were unaware of their selection



as members, and as a result, the envisaged role of JAS as a monitoring body became diluted.

The BRB program aimed to reinvigorate JAS as an effective community monitoring mechanism. This was achieved by establishing rapport between the Medical Officers (MOs) or CHOs and the PRI heads. Following this, JAS members were identified, motivated, and trained. Stationery and meeting registers were provided, and monthly meetings were organized to set agendas and manage fund disbursements.

The Mondelez-supported BRB initiative facilitated the functioning of 116 Jan Arogya Samitis, many of which now have operational bank accounts. Before the intervention, none of these committees had active accounts. In Maharashtra, one JAS was able to mobilize INR 3 lakh to construct a new health centre. JAS members have also secured resources



for purchasing medicine, installing water purifiers, repairing buildings, connecting electricity, and hiring helpers for sanitation.

The BRB program helped address apprehensions and power dynamics between JAS and healthcare workers. Initially, health staff feared that engaging with the community would attract unwanted attention and hinder their duties. However, the program's success in improving facilities and fostering cooperation demonstrated that these fears were unfounded. The JAS has now become a vital community monitoring tool, helping to ensure the smooth functioning of HWCs and contributing to improved healthcare services at the grassroots level.

Impact and Learning

The project has had a considerable impact, with 200 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs strengthened through the provision of maternal, new-born, and child health equipment. The establishment of 24 user-friendly Ayushman Arogya Mandirs has led to a 58% increase in patient footfall, and 11 centres have received Kayakalp accreditation for hygiene standards. Moreover, 861 health staff members have been trained in gender and social inclusion services, and 5,096 high-risk pregnancies and 1,477 under-five children were identified and referred for additional care. The success of this project underscores the importance of infrastructure, training, and community engagement in transforming healthcare facilities into effective centres of care.

emotional well-being. The viewpoints of patients and families are respected, and they are always included in decision-making processes.

Before finalizing the design of the HWCs, key cultural characteristics of the local community are identified and integrated into the design process. The aim is to ensure minimal environmental disturbance while considering local language, social and family structures, gender relations, spirituality, and social issues. These aspects are vital in creating a culturally appropriate health facility.

Transformational Process of HWCs

The government envisions the delivery of comprehensive healthcare

services at the community level with high quality, supported by an efficient referral system. The Ayushman Bharat guidelines for health and wellness centres encapsulate this vision. The Bal Raksha Bharat (BRB) program took this vision and applied it to select blocks in the four states, working with the health departments to transform select Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub Health Centres (SHCs) into HWCs.

The transformation process involved an eight-step approach. The first step was conducting a need assessment to understand the specific requirements of each facility. Following this, the team mapped out space for the construction of essential facilities like toilets, handwashing stations, and

Strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education

(Hoskote Taluk Karnataka)

The collaboration between Bal Raksha Bharat and GSK has significantly advanced Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) across 25 Anganwadi Centres in Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural. This partnership, funded for the period from 2023 to 2024, has directly impacted 591 children, driving notable improvements in the region's early education landscape.

At the heart of this programme the primary focus of the project was the enhancement of infrastructure within the Anganwadi Centres. The funding from GSK facilitated the upgrading of facilities to create more child-friendly environments. This included the installation of improved WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities and better kitchen storage solutions. The integration of mural art and the provision of high-quality materials for playful learning further enriched the educational settings, making them more engaging and supportive for young learners.

Capacity building for Anganwadi workers was another critical component of the project. The funding enabled comprehensive training programs aimed at improving the skills of Anganwadi workers in Early Childhood Education (ECE). These trainings covered various aspects such as lesson planning, creative storytelling, classroom arrangement, and the operation of toy libraries. These initiatives have significantly enhanced the ability



of Anganwadi workers to deliver high-quality education and foster school readiness among children. Additionally, parent involvement was bolstered through awareness programs on Early Literacy and Math at Home (ELM-H), extending educational support beyond the classroom.

The impact of these interventions was rigorously assessed using the International Development & Early Learning Assessment (IDELA) tool. IDELA, a globally recognized assessment tool, measures various

aspects of children's development, including motor skills, early language and literacy, numeracy/problem-solving abilities, and socio-emotional growth. Both baseline and end line assessments were conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the ECCE programming. The results showed a significant improvement, with the total IDELA score rising from 29.8% at baseline to 66.4% at end line. Notable increases were observed in motor skills (37%), emergent literacy (39%), emergent numeracy (32%), and socio-emotional skills (38%).

Feedback from stakeholders highlights the positive impact of the project. Ms. Vidya A. Vastrad, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) for Hoskote-Bangalore Rural at the Department of Women and Child Development, acknowledged the project's success in enhancing infrastructure and training. Her comments reflect the meaningful improvements made in creating child-friendly facilities and enriching learning environments.

Anganwadi Worker Shanthamma D.V, with 19 years of experience, shared her personal experience with the project. She noted that the training provided by Bal Raksha Bharat had revitalized her approach to early childhood education. The combination of training and high-quality materials not only enhanced her teaching skills but also increased the number of children attending her centre. Shanthamma's feedback underscores the project's impact on both educators and children.

In addition to programmatic support, GSK's engagement extended to community development. On December 8, 2023, GSK employees interacted with the children and distributed soft toys and colouring kits, aimed at supporting early pre-writing skills and cognitive development. Additionally, a toy donation drive at the GSK corporate office collected 223 items, including toys and books, for the Anganwadi

Centres, and 245 items for a local school. These contributions helped upgrade toy libraries in three Anganwadi Centres and supported a school's library, further enhancing educational resources for children.

In summary, the partnership between Bal Raksha Bharat and GSK has made a significant impact on early childhood education in Hoskote Taluk. The improvements in infrastructure,

enhanced skills of Anganwadi workers, and increased community engagement collectively advance the quality of Early Childhood Care and Education. The results from the IDELA assessments and feedback from beneficiaries illustrate the effectiveness of these interventions and highlight the importance of ongoing support and collaboration in early childhood development.

The total IDELA score was 29.8 per cent for intervention AWCs in Baseline. In Endline total score improved to 66.4%, the difference is statistically significant

Testimonials

Bal Raksha Bharat with the funding support from GSK, has significantly enhanced the infrastructure in 25 AWCs prioritizing child-friendly WASH facilities and kitchen storage solutions. Their incorporation of mural art for interactive learning and provision of high-quality materials for playful learning have greatly benefited children's educational experiences. Moreover, their comprehensive trainings for Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) on Early Childhood Education has contributed towards children's school readiness skills. The special intervention through caregivers meeting has strengthened the community engagement in prioritizing children's early years of learning at home. On behalf of the Department of Women and Child Development, we express our deepest gratitude for the invaluable support and contributions of GSK and Bal Raksha Bharat in advancing early childhood education and development.

Ms. Vidya A Vastrad
Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Hoskote-Bangalore Rural
Department of Women and Child Development, Karnataka

Testimonials

I have 19 years of experience as an anganwadi worker. From the ICDS department so far, I have got trained twice on ECCE. BRB has conducted 5 trainings in last 1 year which focused on importance of Early Childhood Education, lesson planning, creatively narrating stories and rhymes for children, arranging classrooms, functioning of Toy Library, how to engage children through illustrations done on the wall. All the trainings have ignited my skills in spending quality ECE with children. The high-quality materials provided have not only enhanced my teaching but also attracted more children to our center. Today, with 40 eager learners in my care, I am reminded daily of the profound impact of these trainings on both my skills and the children's futures.

Shanthamma D.V

Anganwadi Worker, Doddadunnasandra AWW, Hoskote Taluk Bangalore Rural (19 years of experience as AWW)

Addressing Learning Needs in Bengaluru's Slums: The H&M Foundation Project

The collaboration between Bal Raksha Bharat and the H&M Foundation has been pivotal in addressing the educational needs of children from waste-picking families and nearby communities in Bengaluru's slums. Running from 2019 to 2023, this initiative has been dedicated to establishing a supportive ecosystem of learning, care, and protection for over 9,300 children. Through this partnership, targeted interventions were implemented across 30 slums, 25 government schools, and 25 Anganwadi centres, all aimed at fostering an inclusive educational environment and strengthening community engagement.

A central focus of this initiative was the enhancement of infrastructure and educational facilities. The project made significant strides in improving the conditions within Anganwadi centres and schools by upgrading them to be more child-friendly. This included the installation of multi-height handwashing stations, safe drinking water facilities,

and child-friendly toilet facilities. Moreover, the project advanced STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education by establishing dedicated STEM laboratories. These upgrades were instrumental in creating an

environment conducive to effective learning and ensuring that children had access to essential amenities.

Capacity building among teachers and Anganwadi workers was another crucial component of the project.



A series of comprehensive training programmes were conducted to enhance their skills in multilingual education, lesson planning, and psychosocial support. Teachers were trained to develop and implement lesson plans aligned with the curriculum, engage positively with students, and identify and support those facing abuse or trauma. This training led to marked improvements in teacher competencies, evidenced by significant increases in their ability to adapt lessons, provide ongoing professional development, and engage meaningfully with parents.

Community involvement was integral to the project's success. Efforts were made to bolster the role of parents in school management committees by encouraging their active participation in School Development and Management Committees (SDMCs). Additionally, three Community Resource Centres were established, serving as focal points for community gatherings and collaborative problem-solving. These centres have been instrumental in fostering community engagement and addressing local issues through collective action.

The initiative also placed a strong emphasis on supporting adolescent

girls by providing life skills education and livelihood options. This aspect of the project aimed to empower young women through entrepreneurship development opportunities, preparing them for future employment prospects. By equipping girls with the tools to succeed, the project seeks to break the cycle of poverty and enhance their prospects for a better future.

To assess the impact of these interventions, baseline and endline evaluations were conducted using Quality Learning Environment tools and household survey tools. The assessments, carried out in 2021 and 2023, respectively, evaluated key aspects of the learning environment in schools, Anganwadi centres, and homes. The results demonstrated substantial improvements across various indicators. For instance, the availability of safe drinking water in schools increased from 12% to 68%, and the presence of adequate sanitation facilities rose from 24% to 80%. Furthermore, the percentage of schools with functioning School Development and Management Committees grew from 24% to 76%, and the proportion of teachers trained in child rights and protection surged from 24% to 92%.

An additional achievement of the partnership has been the development of a bilingual dictionary in collaboration with the Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT) Karnataka and Samagra Shikshana of Karnataka (SSK). Set to be released by July 2024, this dictionary aims to aid primary and elementary students in understanding key terms in both Kannada and English. The dictionary is designed to support children's comprehension and language acquisition, bridging educational gaps and enhancing learning outcomes.

The partnership between Bal Raksha Bharat and the H&M Foundation has made notable progress in improving the educational landscape for children in Bengaluru's slums. By addressing infrastructure needs, enhancing teacher capabilities, engaging the community, and supporting adolescent girls, the project has contributed to a more inclusive and supportive educational environment. The positive outcomes reflected in the assessments and the ongoing collaborative efforts underscore the project's success and highlight the continued importance of addressing educational disparities through effective partnerships.

Multi-Activity Centre (MAC) Project in Bengaluru

The Multi-Activity Centre (MAC) initiative in Bengaluru, known as "Room to Grow," represents a collaborative effort to create a comprehensive support system for children from vulnerable backgrounds. The project aims to foster an enabling environment that promotes learning, health, nutrition, and protection. The concept underpinning the MAC is structured around four key pillars: building the agency of children, upholding their rights, empowering families affected by inequality and

discrimination, and strengthening community engagement.

At its core, the MAC concept seeks to address the multifaceted needs of children and their families by focusing on inclusion and capacity building. The MACs are designed to cater to various groups including younger children, out-of-school children aged 6-14, and adolescents and youth aged 15-24. These centres offer a platform for improving educational outcomes, providing vocational skills,

and supporting family and community development. The MAC approach aims to bridge the gaps left by traditional educational and support systems, such as the Special Training Centres (STC), which primarily serve enrolled students and do not address the needs of out-of-school or drop-out children.

The MACs in Bengaluru, located in Rachenahalli, Havadigara, and Devaraju Arasu Colony, were established to address these gaps

by offering tailored educational support and practical assistance. The centres are instrumental in enrolling children who are dropouts, never enrolled, irregular, or slow learners, and guiding them through bridge courses that prepare them for mainstream schooling. The focus on core subjects—Kannada, English, and Mathematics—was chosen due to their foundational importance in the educational curriculum.

To gauge the effectiveness of these educational interventions, the MACs employ a structured assessment process. Pre-assessment and post-assessment tests are administered to evaluate the learning levels of children across four stages: Pre-Primary, Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3. These levels correspond to different stages of educational development, from children who have never been enrolled in school to those who are ready for mainstream education at higher grades. The assessments are designed to track progress and identify areas needing further support.

The results of these assessments are crucial in shaping the educational strategies and ensuring that the MACs meet their objectives. The pre- and post-assessment data provide insights into the effectiveness of the bridge courses and highlight improvements in the learning levels of the children. This data informs the ongoing development of educational modules and the refinement of teaching methods.

In addition to educational support, the MACs play a significant role in providing essential services and resources. They act as a one-stop centre for children and their families, facilitating access to government schemes and entitlements, and assisting with the acquisition of legal documents necessary for social protection. The centres also offer a

safe and comfortable environment, which is particularly valuable given the harsh weather conditions in Bengaluru.

The MACs further contribute to community empowerment by fostering a sense of ownership and involvement among local stakeholders. They serve as hubs for community engagement, offering a space where issues can be discussed and addressed collectively. This approach aligns with the broader goals of the MAC concept, which emphasises the importance of community support in achieving long-term educational and social outcomes. The MAC initiative also extends its support to adolescents and youth by providing financial literacy, digital literacy, and vocational skills training. This component is designed to equip young individuals with the skills necessary to navigate the job market and achieve economic independence. By fostering confidence and self-reliance, the MACs help to improve the future prospects of young people in Bengaluru.

The Multi-Activity Centre (MAC) project in Bengaluru represents a holistic approach to addressing the educational and social needs of children from vulnerable backgrounds. Through its focus on core educational support, community engagement, and youth empowerment, the MAC initiative makes significant strides towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for learning and development. The positive outcomes reflected in the assessment data and the ongoing community impact underscore the success of the project and the importance of continued efforts in this crucial area.

Out of the 213 children enrolled in the 3 MACs, there are completed 213 children's pre-assessments have been done and 173 children's post-assessments have been completed.

End of the academic year, many children, learning levels have been improved, and mainstreaming them to the school with regular follow-up. The remaining children have not attended the post-assessment test due to the following various reasons.

1. Migration back to their native places and joined to the schools and Hostels
2. Some children regularly go to the school with close observation of the team

Linkages to Social Protection Schemes and Legal Identity:

We have organized awareness camps for youth and parents on social protection schemes and services and provide hand-holding support (like online service, documentation service, etc) for the families to access the benefits of the social protection schemes provided by the government. Also for providing legal identity to the families of the community which is one of the main criteria for availing any benefits of government-sponsored social protection schemes.

As of now, the following SPS linkages have been done in the 3 MAC community locations.

A total of 943 people were linked to Social Protection Schemes from Oct 2023 to May 2024.

Enabling greater accessibility to youth and adolescents for employment in viable livelihood (15-24 years of age)

With the objective for advancing the skills and professional development of adolescents and youth, MAC provides various services developed through an innovative intervention model to equip individuals with the knowledge and skills required to perform specific job-related tasks

and prepare them for the job market. Financial literacy and Life skill courses are delivered to adolescents and youth through MACs. As part of this activity, We have collaborated with Jana Sikshana Samsthan to provide VT to the youth at a Community level. Some of the members were linked to nearby Institutions for VT courses in Computers, Tailoring, and Beautician courses. As of now (from Oct 2023 to May 2024)138 youth are linked to Vocational training. 80 members have completed the VT course and 10 members will be completed by Jun end and the rest are continuing the courses. 9 members joined in decent employment and 37 members received materials to start EDP of Doll making, Tailoring machines, and Embroidery materials.

A total of 182 youths attended the LS4S training Module and gained knowledge on the following topics

- Positive Self-concept which

YIAL - Youth led Circular Economy in Bengaluru

In a strategic partnership with H&M, Bal Raksha Bharat (BRB) is advancing youth engagement in the circular economy, with a particular emphasis on fabric upcycling and vocational training for underprivileged youth aged 18 to 24. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to reducing waste and pollution through eco-friendly practices. By creating durable products from upcycled materials and developing circular supply chains, the initiative actively involves youth in repair, reuse, and recycling processes, thus promoting a circular customer journey and extending the lifecycle of products.

The approach for the Youth Innovation Action Lab (YIAL) incorporates a robust data

measurement framework, utilising a Management Information System (MIS) and Endline Evaluation.

- includes self-reflection. Self-confidence and Goal Setting
- Communication and the various components of communication namely, Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication, Assertive Communication, and Active Listening
- Self-control which includes Professionalism, Managing Emotions and Time, and Stress Management
- Social Skills and the various component of it which includes, Respect and Empathy, Resolving Conflict and Teamwork
- Higher Order Thinking Skills which include, problem-solving, critical thinking skills, goal setting and planning, and decision making.

In addition to the above points, MAC also provides a platform for conducting career counseling activities and provides linkages to open schooling to adolescents and youth.

This methodology supports the development of fabric upcycling fashion projects and aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

The project's core goals are to reduce waste, lessen the demand on natural resources, increase community awareness, and influence consumer behaviour. The Tikau Fashion project serves as a prime example, transforming used clothing into a variety of new products and thus

- We have identified 25 adolescents & youth aged 15 to 24 years enrolled in the NIOS for 10th and 2nd PUC from 3 Locations of MACs. All the students are preparing for the final examinations with the support of the concerned MAC team.
- Child champions and CPC committee meetings

We have formed the child champions groups and CPC committees at the 3 MAC locations. There are 10 to 15 members in each child group and 15 to 20 members in the CPC committee. The main objective of this group formation is to strengthen the committee/ group members on child protection mechanisms in the community level. As of now, we have conducted 2 meetings in each location and strengthened them towards supporting the community.

mitigating landfill waste. By reducing the need for raw materials and energy in clothing manufacturing, the project addresses environmental concerns and educates communities on the benefits of upcycling. Additionally, it taps into the growing consumer preference for eco-friendly products, encouraging sustainable consumption habits.

The project's objectives are to equip youth with essential life skills, financial literacy, digital literacy, and vocational training necessary for launching and sustaining their enterprises; to empower marginalized youth in Bengaluru to develop and manage innovative circular economy ventures like "Tikau Fashion"; and to implement sustainable models that foster

environmental stewardship. Target groups for the initiative include young leaders from marginalized communities, spanning both genders and various socio-economic backgrounds, including urban slums and remote villages. The programme focuses on youth aged 18 to 24 who are out of mainstream education and those with entrepreneurial aspirations, with special emphasis on reaching girls who have discontinued their education.

Between January 2024 and March 2024, significant progress was made. The Bal Raksha Bharat team engaged with 250 to 300 youth aged 18 to 24, 20 to 25 individuals aged 25 to 30, and 30 to 40 community decision-makers across 21 settlements in Bengaluru. The Life Skills for Success (LS4S) training programme was completed for four batches, covering 83 youth. The Youth Innovation Action Lab (YIAL) workshop held from March 1st to 10th reached 22 youth, leading to the development of six business ideas. Facilitators assisted in formulating business plans, and an exposure visit was organised to relevant stakeholders and business units.

Furthermore, 39 youth were enrolled in vocational training and the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). The upcycling business plan group

visited an existing fabric upcycling unit and received orientation on forming Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Entrepreneurial Development Programmes (EDP), and financial literacy. Sessions with the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NRLM) and the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) were conducted to support the formation of women SHGs. The upcycling group gained hands-on experience in product creation, and a production unit was identified with initial materials procured for practical training.

Progress reports indicate that 71 marginalized youth, including both men and women, have been empowered with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to establish and run successful enterprises, thus fostering economic independence. The YIAL workshops trained 26 youth in entrepreneurial skills and facilitated the development of six business plans, including the Tikau Fashion initiative, which received support for setting up a production unit.

Additionally, 39 youth engaged in vocational training, including computer literacy, beautician courses, and NIOS education, complemented by Life Skills for Success training. These youths are expected to

complete their training within 45 days to three months, paving the way for future employability.

The project has also successfully implemented innovative circular economy models. A group of six youth and four adults established an SHG and developed a business plan for 'Tikau Fashion,' focused on fabric upcycling. They received training from NULM officials on group formation and financial literacy, as well as hands-on training in creating upcycled products. This business aims to recycle old clothes into new, trendy items such as bags, rugs, doormats, curtains, quilts, pet beds, and bedsheets, while also raising awareness about sustainable fashion and clothing longevity.

The initiative has significantly increased community awareness about responsible waste management, eco-friendly practices, and sustainable fashion choices. The circular economy model promotes the repair, upgrade, and disassembly of products to regenerate materials into new products, fostering economic growth while mitigating environmental impact and conserving natural resources. The project continues to educate and engage communities in reusing and upcycling products, thereby advancing sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Project Reach



Building Safe Online Spaces for Children in Tamil Nadu & Maharashtra

The rapid advancement of technology has fundamentally altered how children interact with the world, especially through the internet and various digital platforms. This transformation highlights an urgent need for early cyber safety education to help children navigate the digital landscape safely and responsibly. According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 200 million children face sexual abuse annually, with a significant portion occurring online or through digital content. The internet, while a powerful enabler, also exposes children to various risks such as violence, abuse, bullying, radicalization, and inappropriate content. Additionally, the impact of increased internet use on children's emotional, psychosocial, and behavioural development is a growing concern.

In response to these challenges, Norton (Gen Digital) and Bal Raksha Bharat (BRB) has prioritized online safety for children as part of its broader mission to end all forms of

violence, exploitation, and abuse against children. Recognizing the surge in mobile application and online content usage, especially post-COVID-19, BRB aims to ensure that children across both urban and remote areas benefit from online connectivity while being shielded from harmful and exploitative content. The project focuses on creating and strengthening a secure online environment through the active engagement of children, parents, caregivers, teachers, and government officials.

A significant innovation in this effort is the development of a 3D miniature model designed to enhance cyber safety awareness. This model offers a three-dimensional, immersive experience that makes complex cyber safety concepts more accessible and engaging for children. Unlike traditional 2D images, 3D models provide a realistic representation that helps children better understand and retain information about online safety. Through this tool, we have empowered children to lead awareness activities, particularly

through Online Safety Clubs in Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu. Trained children organize exhibitions within their schools, where they use the 3D model to explain online safety issues and reporting mechanisms to their peers. This approach not only educates children but also encourages them to raise awareness in their communities.

The initiative has reached approximately 40,000 children, equipping them with the knowledge to make informed decisions and seek help when facing online risks. Additionally, training for teachers has resulted in a notable improvement in understanding online safety concepts, with 24.5% of teachers showing significant progress in their comprehension through pre- and post-training assessments. By engaging children in this manner, Gen Digital & BRB are fostering a proactive stance on online safety and ensuring that they are prepared to protect themselves and others in the digital world.

from relevant departments, baseline assessments were conducted, and ICDS health staff received capacity-building training. Community awareness was raised through health education sessions and screening camps, with outreach reaching over 10,000 beneficiaries. Building Learning Environments (BLES) activities were supported in five Anganwadi Centers, enhancing educational and health service delivery.

The project also focused on improving accountability and engagement with local governments and communities. This included capacity-building programs for AWWs, ANMs, and ASHA workers, and supporting local health officials in organizing key health events. The project's engagement efforts were complemented by observances of national and international health days, health camps, and community-based activities such as antenatal and postnatal care counseling.

Notable achievements include the recruitment, training, and deployment of new employees, effective engagement with SHAHI factories, and support to Anganwadi Centers with educational materials and resources. Capacity-building programs for health and ICDS functionaries have empowered frontline workers, while health camps and community engagement activities have provided essential services and strengthened health-seeking behaviors.

Overall, the MCHN-SHAHI project demonstrates a comprehensive approach to improving maternal and child health and nutrition. It involves a multifaceted strategy that integrates stakeholder collaboration, capacity building, community engagement, and direct service delivery to address critical health needs and foster positive health outcomes in the targeted regions.



Project Reach – Total For The Year 2023-2024

Project Reach 2023-24			
Target	Target for the Month	Total Reach	Achievements in %
No of medical staff /Doctor	5	95	1900
CDPOs/DD	5	23	460
Supervisors	5	36	720
Staff Nurses	5	67	1340
No of AWWs,	10	963	9630
ASHA	10	202	2020
No of ANMS	10	72	720
No of pregnant women	100	878	878
No of PNC		730	
No of New born	50	399	798
No of Under five children	300	2039	679.70
Women reached every year	4500	4708	104.62
SHAHI Worker		78	
Total Reach	5000	10290	205.8

Maternal and Child Health & Nutrition (MCHN) in Bengaluru

The MCHN-SHAHI project is designed to enhance maternal and child health and nutrition during the critical 1,000 days from pregnancy to a child's second birthday. This initiative, implemented by Bal Raksha Bharat in collaboration with SHAHI Exports Pvt. Ltd, targets Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu to address public health service delivery. Key interventions include building adequate infrastructure, and technical capacity. NFHS-5 data highlighted deficiencies in family planning, antenatal care (ANC), and iron-folic acid (IFA) consumption, prompting

the need for focused interventions to improve maternal and child health outcomes.

The project has engaged various stakeholders to achieve its objectives. The Health and Family Welfare Department has been instrumental in securing permissions and scaling up activities, ensuring community participation and basic service provision. The Women and Child Welfare Department has facilitated the project by approving and scaling up activities, enhancing the participation of functionaries, and

improving beneficiaries' access to nutritional services and preschool education. Educational and academic institutions have provided technical support and training, while women and the community have utilized the training to drive behavior changes. Children have benefited directly from the project's initiatives, leading to healthier and happier outcomes.

Several key activities have been undertaken to improve the availability, access, and use of quality maternal, newborn, child, and nutrition services. Permissions were secured

From Silence to Speech



Charan (name changed), a 7 yrs old young boy is residing in one of the notified slums in urban Hyderabad with his parents and elder brother. His mother goes for domestic work in the nearby locality and his father is a daily wage labour. Charan is suffering with medical issues by birth -epilepsy and motor related problems and could not speak. Charan's parents tried their best towards his medical treatment including epilepsy surgery, yet Charan could not speak. Due to this reason, Charan was denied with school admission in many schools.

With this background, in the month of Dec '23, Charan's parents approached MAC team for his admission into MAC school. Charan was welcomed by MAC team and comforted his stay at the centre with games and fun along with his per children.

Slowly the Academic facilitators initiated basic language and numeracy skills to Charan. Though he had initial hiccups in following and reciprocating the learnings, the digital and play based education helped Charan to understand the basic alphabets and numbers and to reciprocate along with his fellow mates. Gradually he started identifying and speaking

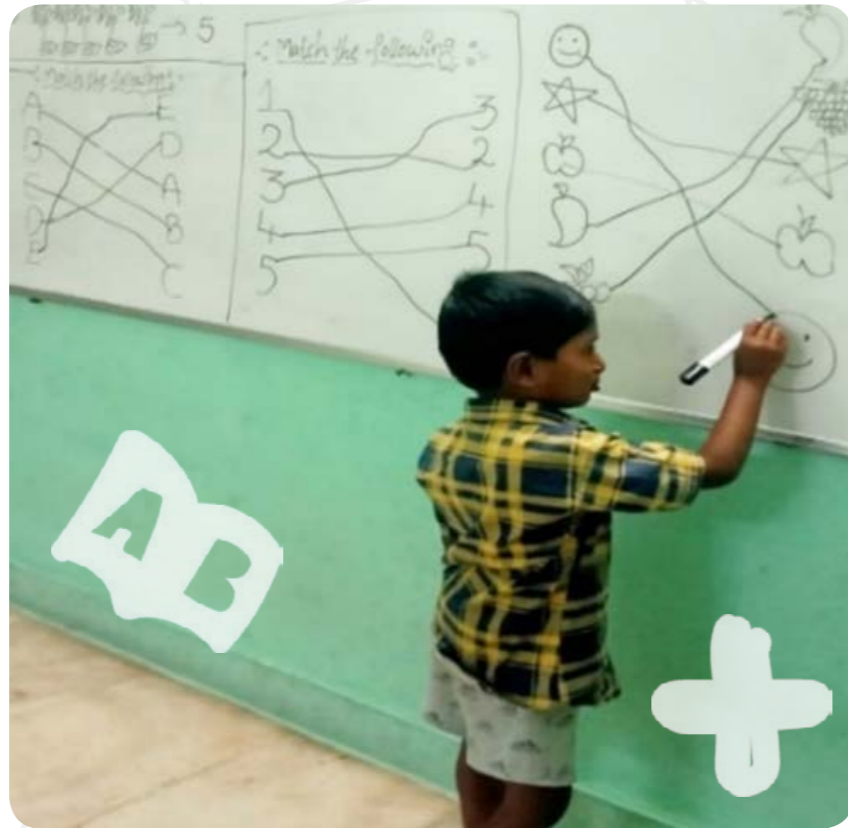
letters with low voice. The entire process of digital Videos on letters and numbers identification, playing rhymes and games, counselling to parents, parents support to Charan in doing his homework on activity sheets put Charan to improve his overall motor skills and he soon started speaking and writing the alphabets and starting speaking at home.

This "Room to Grow" project, not only supported Charan's academic beginning, but also boosted the parent's confidence to enrol him to school in the upcoming academic year with the support of MAC team.

This project aims to support many children like Charan who have learning gaps and/or school drop outs due to various reasons. Charan's

parents are very happy in sending him to MAC Centre regularly and his mother expressed that her son is very active now and learning alphabets in a better way and is able to speak fluently than before.

“Bal Raksha Bharat has provided my son an opportunity to learn and engage in achieving his dreams. Thanks to BRB and he will support many children when he grow.
- Charan's Mother **”**



MAC -Room to Grow project

Manasa (name changed) is a determined young girl who lives in the notified urban slum located in Nagole, Rangareddy District, Telangana State. Her father is a carpenter, mother homemaker and she have two younger siblings. Mansa had to drop out from her 4th grade by the fact of the financial crunches that the family is going through. She was forced with the responsibility of caretaking her two younger cousins (who are also school drop outs on the similar grounds) while parents go for work.

Bal Rakshak's from MAC identified Mansa during the HH visits as part of school enrolment drive and played a pivotal role in supporting Manasa and her family through the "Room to Grow" project (MAC) not just addressing the learning gaps by providing a conducive learning environment at MAC to all the three children but also a recreational space along with peer children at MAC. The project also supported her family linking to social protection schemes like E-Sharm Cards and SSY for their child.

Mansa's educational trajectory saw a positive shift post enrolling at MAC fulfilling her learning gaps. The team have identified about 26 school irregular and drop-out children in the locality on various grounds of poverty, school at distance, parents and/or children not interested in schooling, etc which leaves a humungous work to the Bal Rakshak's to ensure all these children are back to school. We are confident that Mansa's story will inspire the other children and parents in the locality to let their wards get enrolled at MAC and/or to the nearby govt. schools in the upcoming academic year.



“I am grateful to Bal Raksha Bharat for their support. It is like a light in our lives. I am determined to study hard and become a civil servant. Bal Raksha Bharat is giving me the opportunity to learn and participate in accomplishing my dreams. - Mansa **”**



CSSP Project: Access to Social Protection

(Gujarat, Maharashtra & Rajasthan)

During the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) focused on achieving various strategic breakthroughs through innovation and a refined approach to project execution. The unit translated its strategies into action, ensuring that key initiatives were aligned with Bal Raksha Bharat's (BRB) broader objectives of improving child welfare and community resilience.

CSSP Project: Access to Social Protection

The CSSP Project primarily aimed to facilitate access to social protection schemes, focusing on making them more child-sensitive, such as the 'Cash Plus' approach. The initiative was successful in enabling local governments to establish a Panchayat Level Management Information System (PMIS), providing a structured mechanism to secure access to social welfare programs. The introduction

of child-sensitive measures through the Palanhar Plus programme, in collaboration with government front-line workers, further supported this goal. This holistic approach improved access to social protection for families and children, particularly those in vulnerable situations.

TBS Project: Multi-Activity Centre (MAC) in Bhiwadi

The TBS Project demonstrated significant achievements through the Multi-Activity Centre (MAC) intervention in Bhiwadi's industrial area. Over 100 children who had never been enrolled or had dropped out of the education system were successfully brought back into the academic fold. This intervention addressed critical gaps in education access, particularly for children from marginalised backgrounds, offering

them new opportunities for learning and development. By engaging the community, the project strengthened its impact, ensuring that more children received the support they needed to pursue formal education.

Protecting Vulnerable and Orphan Children in Rajasthan and Gujarat

This project adopted a case management approach, offering vital mental health and psychosocial support to vulnerable and orphaned children in Rajasthan and Gujarat. Through targeted interventions, including the implementation of an Individual Child Behaviour Checklist (ICBC), the project helped assess the mental well-being of children exposed to traumatic experiences. Counselling sessions, based on these assessments, were instrumental in enhancing the



children's emotional resilience and social interactions. This initiative resulted in improved emotional regulation, communication skills, and overall social wellbeing, particularly in Dungarpur and Sabarkantha districts.

Education: Saajhi Shiksha Project

The Saajhi Shiksha Project focused on ensuring inclusive, high-quality education for children in the regions of Kookra and Lasadiya. The project was designed with three key components: Early Learning and Child Development, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, and School Ecosystem Development. Under the Early Learning and Child Development component, the 'Ready to Learn' approach, combined with ELM at Home, ELM at Centres, and IDELA assessments, was successfully implemented. Additionally, the establishment of 19 Learning Resource Centres provided remedial support, and the introduction of ICT and STEM setups in seven schools enhanced the educational experience, encouraging engagement and improved learning outcomes.

Project K-Corp: Health and Nutrition Interventions

Project K-Corp marked a significant effort in monitoring the growth and nutritional health of children. The project focused on the systematic tracking of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases through a series of home visits and follow-ups every fortnight. Additionally, the formation of community groups and the identification of Nutrition Champions played a crucial role in raising awareness about maternal and child health. These community-based interventions helped monitor the progress of affected children and ensured timely interventions to improve their nutritional status.

MAC Project (Maharashtra)

Through the MAC project, over 360 children, either never enrolled or school dropouts, were reintegrated into the educational system. This initiative was crucial in bridging

educational gaps, particularly for children from marginalised communities in Mumbai's N-ward. In its second phase, the project also linked adolescents and youth to vocational training and entrepreneurship programmes, helping them acquire valuable skills in fields such as beauty, hospitality, and computer training. Furthermore, the project facilitated access to government social protection schemes, enabling over 860 beneficiaries to receive support across health, education, and employment sectors.

PIU 5's 2023-24 programme portfolio was marked by strategic innovations, community engagement, and substantial progress towards ensuring access to education, health, and social protection for vulnerable children and families. Each project under this unit demonstrated a commitment to improving lives through targeted interventions, effectively contributing to Bal Raksha Bharat's mission. These efforts not only fostered resilience within the communities but also reinforced the organisation's brand and impact on child welfare at both local and national levels.



Strengthening Partnerships and Community Impact in Jharkhand

Bal Raksha Bharat (BRB) has continued to solidify its presence and impact in Jharkhand through the strategic interventions led by Program Implementation Unit 6 (PIU 6), Bal Raksha Bharat. Operating in Gumla and West Singhbhum districts, the unit has been instrumental in building strong relationships with various government departments, enhancing educational outcomes, improving child nutrition, and developing livelihood

opportunities for women and adolescents. These efforts have been particularly focused on ensuring that vulnerable children receive the care, protection, and resources they need to thrive.

In collaboration with the Education Department, the Women and Child Development & Social Security (WCD&SS) department, Health & Nutrition (H&N) department, and

the State Livelihood Mission, BAL RAKSHA BHARAT has not only deepened its impact but also worked to ensure sustainability by embedding technical support within government frameworks. Here's a detailed look at the work done in these regions, emphasizing the progress made, challenges faced, and the long-term benefits for the community.



Geographical Focus and Key Interventions

Education Interventions in Gumla and West Singhbhum Districts

BAL RAKSHA BHARAT's most extensive educational interventions have been in Kamdara Block of Gumla District and Khuntpani Block of West Singhbhum District. Across these areas, BRB worked with 108 Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) and 90 primary schools, providing technical support to improve foundational learning outcomes for young children.

144 teachers and 99 Anganwadi workers (AWWs) received training under the "Ready to Learn" program. This initiative aimed to build capacity among educators by introducing innovative teaching methods and improving engagement with children.

To ensure children had the tools

necessary for foundational learning, BAL RAKSHA BHARAT distributed Educational Learning Material (ELM) kits, as well as Big Books and storybooks, to 108 AWCs and

90 schools. These materials were specifically chosen to support early literacy and numeracy, fostering a better learning environment for children aged 3-6 years.



DC-Gumla during school visit at Kamdara

Protecting Children through Workforce Development in Chakradharpur Block

In Chakradharpur Block, West Singhbhum, Bal Raksha Bharat supported 15 panchayats as a technical support agency under the "Protecting Children through Capacitated Workforce" initiative. The aim was to empower local government and child protection workers with the tools and knowledge to effectively safeguard children's rights. By training government officials and integrating child protection mechanisms into the local workforce, we ensured that vulnerable children were better protected from harm and exploitation.



Nutrition and Livelihood Initiatives in Sonua Block

In Sonua Block of West Singhbhum, BRB worked to improve access to essential nutrition interventions for women, children, and adolescents. Recognizing the critical link between nutrition and livelihood, the program

focused on empowering communities through sustainable income-generating activities.

Sun Groups Formation: To boost local livelihoods, 10 Sun Groups were

developed. These groups, composed primarily of women, were trained and supported in generating sustainable income through various agricultural and non-agricultural activities.



Cost of Diet Study: A comprehensive "Cost of Diet" study was conducted to assess the affordability and availability of nutritious food in the region. The findings were disseminated to local government stakeholders, helping shape future interventions aimed at improving food security for vulnerable populations.

Development of a Child-Friendly Juvenile Home in Chaibasa, West Singhbhum

Responding to a request from the government, we successfully developed a child-friendly juvenile home in Chaibasa, West Singhbhum. This facility was designed to provide a safe, nurturing environment for children in conflict with the law, focusing on their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The project was completed on time and handed over to the district authorities, marking a significant step toward protecting the rights and well-being of children in the justice system.



Relocation of the ECCE Resource Centre in Gumla



Another significant milestone was the relocation of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Resource Centre from Sisai Block to the District Social Welfare Office (DSWO) in Gumla. This strategic move expanded the reach of the ECCE program, allowing BRB to engage with a larger number of Anganwadi centers and schools, ultimately benefiting more children with early childhood development services.

Sustaining Educational Excellence through Capacity Building

PIU 6 placed a strong emphasis on building the capacity of educators and Anganwadi workers. The following are some key initiatives undertaken to ensure high-quality educational outcomes:

Learning Through Play: In both Khuntpani and Kamdara blocks, two-day training programs on “Learning

Through Play” were organized for 35 government officials, 158 teachers, and 105 AWWs. These programs were designed to introduce interactive, play-based learning methods, fostering an environment where children could develop critical thinking and social skills in a creative way.

Storytelling as a Pedagogical Tool:

Recognizing the power of storytelling in education, BRB coordinated online and face-to-face storytelling training sessions in collaboration with Katha. These sessions, held in March 2024, involved 20 teachers, 19 AWWs, and various government officials, equipping educators with new methods to engage children more effectively.



Impact of Technical Support and Brand Recognition

Bal Raksha Bharat's strategic engagement with the local government in Jharkhand has significantly elevated the organization's reputation as a trusted partner. By embedding technical support within government systems, BRB has been recognized as an integral contributor to child welfare initiatives in the state.

Government Orders and Collaboration: The Jharkhand

government issued official orders recognizing BRB's role in providing technical support during cluster and sector meetings, GURU Gosthi (teacher's forums), and monthly ICDS meetings. This collaboration not only strengthened our brand but also deepened the organization's reach and impact on child education and protection.

PIU 6's work in Jharkhand has laid the foundation for sustainable, long-

term improvements in child welfare, education, and nutrition. With plans to continue interventions in Gumla and West Singhbhum districts until December 2025, BRB is committed to deepening its impact through continued technical support, capacity building, and resource mobilization. By fostering strong relationships with government partners and empowering local communities, PIU 6 is ensuring that the children of Jharkhand have a brighter, more secure future.



Mobile Learning Centre

Anganwadi on Wheels SB2S and Quality Early Learning Opportunities for Children in Delhi Phase - 2

Key Initiatives or Changes:

Foundation is important when it comes to education. Early Childhood Education and Care or ECCE is the foundation for a human being to grow mentally and emotionally strong. As per statistics, there are 13.7 lakh Anganwadi centres in India which provide ECCE services to children below the age of 6. But due to inadequate supervision, a lack of knowledge about health and education facilities still exists. Even the NEP 2020 states "To prepare an initial cadre of high-quality ECCE teachers in Anganwadi, current Anganwadi workers/teachers need to be trained through a systematic effort in accordance with the curricular/

pedagogical framework developed by NCERT.

The project made a significant change to improve the project delivery efficiency by prioritize reaching out to the most marginalized children, including those living in urban slums and street situations, through Mobile Learning Centres (MLCs) in identified locations.

By mainstreaming children into Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and schools and creating safe and enabling environments, the project aimed to improve early learning outcomes and set a strong foundation for children's holistic development. Thus, the

project addressed the challenges faced by vulnerable children in accessing quality early childhood care and education, with a focus on promoting holistic development and equitable learning opportunities

Innovative Approaches or Strategies: The three main objectives proposed under this project are as under:

- To support children in street situation to access ECCE services through Mobile Anganwadi Centres. This was achieved through, through Refurbish the interiors of the Mobile Anganwadi, Availability of Learning and Play Kits.



- To enable Mother Group and School Management Committee to enroll children into AWCs and schools and ensure quality learning environment. This would be achieved through organizing Campaign for Safe and Sustained Return of Children to AWCs and Schools and Formation and strengthening of Anganwadi Development Committees and SMCs.
- To enable smooth transition for all girls and boys in age group 3 – 8 years from street/home to mobile learning centers and to formal schooling.

The implementation of the strategies shared above resulted in the project supporting the BRB objectives in continuing our endeavors for the welfare of children and work on the path of a providing equal opportunities to the most marginalized children of our society so as to help them dream of a bright future.

Measures of Success:

The main key achievement of the project are listed as under:

- Refurbish the interiors of the Mobile Anganwadi: Two mobile Anganwadi units have been

renovated to create an engaging environment for children.

- Availability of learning kits: A gender-sensitive and inclusive learning play kit was provided in each Mobile Learning Anganwadi. Orientation sessions were provided to staff, including Academic Support Fellow, mobilisers, and Mothers on the usage of the resource materials. Through these repeated reading sessions, 193 children are learning new words and understanding the languages
- Conduct regular sessions at Mobile Learning Centre to bridge learning gap: The reporting period saw, the Academic Support Fellow conduct 36 sessions with 193 children, which includes 116 girls and 77 boys.
- We have also, in this reporting period mainstreamed (enrolled in formal school), 19 children (12 girls and 7 boys in the MCD schools
- Formation and strengthening of Anganwadi Development Committees (AWDC)/Mother Groups (MGs) on their roles and responsibilities: 11 meetings were held with 6 mothers' groups, comprising a total of 93 mothers. The 93 mothers were trained on

the Foundation Stage of child development, teaching them how to engage in activities with their children using everyday household items and play-based learning approaches at home.

- Additionally, 6 health and hygiene sessions were conducted for the 93 mothers and 28 fathers to orient them about maintaining personal hygiene while caring for infants and young children.
- Formation and strengthening of SMCs on their roles and responsibilities –In the reporting period, one orientation meetings were held with SMC members from four primary co-education schools, with a total of 64 participants.
- Regular Session's Parents/ Caregiver at Mobile AWC: 10 sessions with 130 parents (including 120 female and 8 males), were conducted, where in these sessions, the participants were briefed on the significance of the primary school foundation stage. The sessions aimed to guide parents on facilitating continued learning, particularly in FLN, through activity and play-based learning at home using familiar household materials.



Success Story

A Story of Reena (Mother)



Reena, aged 36, resided in Bihari building, Shastri Park, East Delhi, with her 6 children. Originally from Pargana, Kolkata, she faced challenges following her mother's demise and her father's remarriage. Confronting financial hardships, her parents married her off at 13 to an older man, resulting in the birth of her 4 children (aged 17, 15, 14, and 11). Tragically, her husband passed away after a prolonged illness. Alone and unsupported by her family, Reena relocated to Zama Majid in Delhi with a relative. Assisted by a community influencer, she secured a

job collecting garbage from residential areas in East Delhi. Subsequently, she remarried and gave birth to 2 more children, aged 9 and 3.

Her elder children, aged 17 and 15, discontinued schooling to aid their mother in waste segregation, while the 14- and 11-year-olds were unable to enroll due to missing documents. Through the intervention of Mobile Anganwadi in East Delhi, Reena's 3-year-old daughter Anvi engaged with the centre, regularly attending AWC via the MLC bus and engaging in educational play.

Reena, thrilled by this development, encouraged her 9-year-old son to pursue education. Our future endeavours include supporting the enrolment of all her children in school.

By Reena, she shared, "I always tried to ensure that my children receive a good education for a better life. Despite being illiterate myself, I work in garbage collection. I don't want my children to end up in the same situation."

"After seeing this bus, I was surprised to find an Anganwadi in Delhi equipped with many toys and teaching materials. I am glad that our children will have more opportunities to learn. I encourage other mothers in our community to regularly bring their children to this centre to keep them safe while they work"

Transforming Lives of Adolescents and Youth in Delhi Phase-2

Key Initiatives or Changes:

Youth (15-24 years of age) comprises approximately 20% of the total population in Delhi.

Unfortunately, numerous challenges impede many youths from realizing their potential, such as poverty, inadequate skills, and limited access to essential social services like education and skill-building.

The project "Transforming Lives of Adolescents and Youth in Delhi Phase-2" aligned with the RP Project based on MAC operating in Delhi to reach out to the maximum number of youths within the limited resources available with the project. As the geographies of both the project were similar, the man power and resources of both the projects were combined to achieve a target beyond the set target number set out initially for the project. The MAC centre was used in this project as well for engaging the youth under various activities such as Life



Skill Education, Career Counselling, etc, thereby helping in the quality delivery of the services. This project is a shining beacon on how to operate a skill building project as a top-up of an integrated project.

The project empowered the youth to face the contemporary job

market by equipping them with financial literacy, digital literacy, and vocational skills training. Through this approach, we had foster confidence and independence among young individuals and helped to improve the prospects of young people and support their futures.



Innovative Approaches or Strategies:

The project strategy centred on adolescents and youth aged 15-24, providing opportunities for open schooling to those who have not completed their 10th or 12th class, connects them with Vocational Training, Entrepreneurship Development Programs (EDP), and offer a pathway to organized sector employment. In addition, Bal Raksha Bharat offered career counselling and life skills education to help them choose vocational training courses aligned with their interests, facilitating a career launch in the organized sector. Further, the intervention strives to create awareness among community parents and youth about Social Protection Schemes, guiding them to access benefits according to their eligibility and needs, thus providing them support for strengthening the family and their community eco system

Through these efforts, the project

was able to diminish the engagement of adolescents and youth in labour, fostering a more secure and supportive environment

Measures of Success:

The key achievements of the project are listed as under:

- During the project duration 316 adolescents and youth were counselled for VT, EDP & NIOS against the target of 230 adolescents and youth
- 240 adolescents and youth were trained on Life Skills, against the target of 230 adolescents and youth
- 184 youth have been enrolled and trained in vocational training, 36 adolescents have been enrolled for National Institute for Open Schooling and 20 youth were given training on Entrepreneurship Development Programme
- 115 youth have been placed in decent employment and the process to place the remaining

unplaced youth is still continuing

- 34 youth have been trained for EDP and were provided appropriate tool kit for supporting their entrepreneurship idea
- 500 community members were oriented in the appropriate social protection schemes. against the target of 500, thereby fulfilling the target set for

As shown in the data above, the project with its very limited resource (a manpower of two and very limited budget) was able to cater to address the needs of 5 different project intervention areas across Delhi. The impact of the success of the project is visible with the donor agreeing to fund a full 3-year future project with a larger budget and manpower. Additionally, the project's success has led to the fulfilling of BRB's cherished dream of opening our own Centre of Excellence for youth, greatly reducing our dependencies on external training partners to impart vocational training to our youth.



Success Story

Ms. Mahima, a 22 years old girl originally from Uttar Pradesh, relocated to Delhi with her family in search of better opportunities and livelihood. Raised in a financially constrained environment, her father worked as a driver while her mother managed the household. Mahima shouldered the responsibility of supporting her family, along with her three siblings. Despite completing her 12th grade and nurturing dreams of higher education, the reality of limited income from her father's job, combined with family expenses and her siblings' educational needs, made further studies seem unattainable.

Determined to contribute to her family's welfare, Mahima sought employment in the retail sector but faced challenges due to her lack of skills. It was during a field mobilization initiative that she encountered the Bal Raksha Bharat team. This encounter sparked hope for Mahima as she found a pathway to pursue her aspirations.



Mahima received invaluable career counselling on her possible future career path. She (as per the process of our upskilling program) received life skills training, which honed her skills on communication, social skills, critical analysis, among other. She was then Enrolled Retail Sales Associate course in YUWA Skills Training Centre (one of our training partners).

She was impressed by the well-equipped training centre and practical

classrooms provided at the training partner centre. She eagerly took all her classes at the training centre and absorbed the lessons in communication, sales techniques, product knowledge and handling the customers throughout the training. After successfully completing her training, she secured a position at Whirlpool with a monthly salary of INR: 19,000 per month.

This achievement brought immense joy to Mahima as she not only became financially independent but also contributed to her family's well-being. Grateful for the support and opportunities

provided by Bal Raksha Bharat, Mahima acknowledged how the training had transformed her life, instilling crucial skills in personality development, customer handling, presentation, time management, and communication. Her journey from a hopeful participant to a confident sales executive exemplifies how determination, coupled with the right opportunities and guidance, can lead to significant and empowering changes.



Ek Pehal Phase II

Key Initiatives or Changes:

Bal Raksha Bharat implemented the Project Ek Pahel in with the goal to improve availability and access to quality health, nutrition and early child education for migrant labourers and their families. Most of the migrant workers live in urban slums. These slum clusters have poor access to decent sanitation facilities, abysmal hygiene levels due to poor drainage/waste management systems, lack of availability of clean drinking water, inefficient and non-existent healthcare service delivery. Slum Children are more prone to drop-out and often they face the quality of available schooling options in poor urban areas and this leads to inferior academic achievement, and low performance in turn reinforces a vicious cycle. Therefore, access to education for poor and marginalized children, including the provision of quality schooling in informal settlements, is of paramount importance.

To address the complex situation, the following improvements were made to improve the program efficacy:

- We organized trainings of Anganwadi workers and caregivers on Early Literacy and numeracy, empowering Anganwadi workers and caregivers with the knowledge and tools to support early literacy and numeracy. By creating a rich learning environment and incorporating literacy and numeracy learning they contribute in the holistic development of their children
- Keeping in view to provide quality education and to support the schools, where the students are really in need of basic foundational learning skills, BRB



has conceptualised forming Catch up Clubs. Catch Up Club (CUC) is a short-term, highly targeted, data-driven approach, addressing the educational needs of the children, with a particular focus on improving their literacy, numeracy, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) skills

- The Model Anganwadi/Hubs were designed to provide basic material and facilities for children who spend their joyful time in the centre with a homely environment. Under the project, we have developed 5 such Anganwadi Centres in 5 locations
- Multi-Activity Centers (MAC) have been one of the Centre of Attraction under the project. These MACs were set up to create a Child Friendly Space for ensuring safety and protection of all children attending these centres while their parents are out at work
- SMART classrooms have the

potential of modernising education and enhancing the quality of classroom transaction. Students are supported with enhanced concept formation, elaboration, and improvement in reading skills - factors which lead to improvement in academic achievement in the long run

This project was conceptualized with activities and solution which empowered the migrant labourer population on the crucial topics of education and health thus helping the community on the path of a holistic development for the community comprising of migrant population. The project also is a shining example of replicating such model in the various mega cities of India thus scaling BRB's impact in the years to come.

Innovative Approaches or Strategies:

The project implemented the Multi Activity Centre (MAC) model to improve the Out of school children to improve their existing situations

and offer them opportunities for bridge course to reach to age-appropriate learning level and be mainstreamed to formal education. In addition, the MAC also double up in providing platform to provide Health Services both at Curative and Preventive treatment to the community. Additionally, the project equipped schools with learner friendly, Information Communication and Technology (ICT) based resources and build capacity of teachers on the installed digital resources to improve the learning experiences of children in slums and strengthened the Health System in mapped Government Facilities.

Thus through the implementation of these strategies, the project helped in the cause of more creating a more equitable and inclusive society in metropolitan cities, where migrant people (who migrate in search of better livelihood) from different states are often denied on the basic facilities of education and health.

Measures of Success:

The key project achievements have been shared as under:

- 50 Health Camps covering 10053 people
- 10 Breast cancer screening camps covering 725 women
- 10 Eye care camps through which 1407 people were screened & spectacles were given to 1000 people
- Sensitisation to 1004 men & boys on Menstrual Hygiene and 1000 adolescents' girls with provided with reusable sanitary pads
- 6 health facilities equipped with essential equipment (OPD) and infrastructural support
- Through capacity building, training sessions and awareness building sessions 101 FLWs were trained and 9 schools 102 Teachers & 20503 students were reached
- Growth Monitoring done for 1200 children in 5 slums
- Nutrition kits distribution for 200 children with high protein nutrition kits for a period of 6 months (1200

- kits)
- Training of AWWs/ICDS officials were provided to 20 AWWs & 440 caregivers
- Distribution of 500 ECE & 500 Schools kits as per their age
- 10 Catch up Clubs in 10 schools with 500 children was established
- Establishment of 5 MACs benefitting 150 children
- 5 nos of AWC set up benefitting 108 children
- 6 schools were equipped with state-of-the-art SMART Classrooms & 1 school with Digital library, benefitting 3,041 children

Organising outreach health camps have certainly helped the slum dwellers, where participants with Hypertensive Emergency were prescribed Anti-Hypertensive medicines and were referred to nearby District Hospital in Emergency

Similarly, learning kits provided to

the children & their parents as well as demonstrations on the same by field team has helped the parents & caregivers to carry on learning continuity. Sensitization of community in the urban slums through awareness campaigns & community meetings on Reproductive Maternal New Born Child Health and Govt Schemes & Benefits have made them confident to fight against various disease & access the benefits

Caregivers (AWWs & teachers) have started practicing play-based learnings at their centres. ECE & School kits provided to the schools & centers have really been very effective in encouraging children as well as parents to make them responsive for playful learning

Significant incremental growth due to high protein nutrition kits over period of 6 months has been observed in malnourished children.





Success Story

Prateek's Journey to Health and Happiness

Prateek Kumar, 3-year-old Boy residing in Ambedkar Nagar, Haiderpur, Delhi, with his hardworking father Bishram Singh and dedicated mother Kiran. The family lives in a rented Jhuggi, facing financial challenges as Bishram works as a labourer, and monthly income barely touches Rs. 7000. During routine growth monitoring by the Bal Raksha Bharat (BRB) team, Prateek's weight was recorded at 11.2 kg, and his height measured 82 cm, indicating a state of moderate underweight. Recognizing the need for intervention, BRB under Ek Pehal Project Supported by CBRE, identified Prateek and his family for the necessary support.



Sattu, Rajma, Daliya, Khajur, roasted chana, mungfali, arhar daal in November 2023. The family was educated about the importance of nutrition for Prateek, emphasizing that the contents were solely for the child. Apart from this, Prateek's parents were engaged in a conversation about his underweight status. They were sensitively informed about the significance of proper nutrition in his early years. The parents were encouraged to diligently use the nutrition kit to nourish Prateek and were provided with guidance on balanced feeding practices.

increased to 12 kg and 7 grams, and his height reached 87.4 cm, indicating that he was no longer classified as an underweight child. Prateek's mother expressed immense happiness and gratitude towards Bal Raksha Bharat. She shared, "The nutrition kit, with items like Daliya, Mungfali, and Chana, has been a blessing for us. We have been able to feed Prateek well, and the positive change in his health is evident. He is now healthier and less prone to illness.

Later the BRB team, took a consistent monitoring process, tracking Prateek's weight and height every 15 days. After this short period, a remarkable positive change was observed at end of December 2023. Prateek's weight

Prateek's story stands as a testament to the impact of targeted interventions and parental education. Through timely support and a well-designed nutrition kit, Prateek has not only overcome the challenges of underweight but has blossomed into a healthier and happier child. Bal Raksha Bharat's commitment under CBRE Grant to child welfare has made a tangible difference in Prateek's life, offering hope and a brighter future for him and his family.

A carefully curated nutrition kit was provided to Prateek's family, containing essential items such as



Youth-Led Circular Economy Enterprises for Sustainable Impact

Key Initiatives or Changes:

Delhi's sizable youth population, constituting 20%, holds economic potential, but unemployment and skill gaps impede progress. Despite government initiatives like the Skill India Mission, challenges persist, including misalignment with job markets, limited outreach to marginalized groups, and incomplete development.

To improve the program and functional effectiveness and efficiency, we have empowered the youth with key 21st century employability skills such as Mastering life skills which is fundamental for achieving success, encompassing vital aspects such as self-awareness, effective communication, self-control, social skills, and critical thinking, Business Management, Circular Economy Principles, Enterprise Development, and Product Diversification.

In BRB objective of empowering youth, despite the various challenges and limitation that arose during this period, Bal Raksha Bharat addressed the dual challenge of youth unemployment and solid waste management through a project that focussed on youth-led circular economic approach. By engaging the city's youth in such innovative ventures like producing bio-cleaners from fruit waste, reusing and recycling of the old clothes will not only help in supporting valuable skills be developed among the youth who are engaged but also create a positive impact on the community environment.

Innovative Approaches or Strategies:

Bal Raksha Bharat initiated a pilot



phase project titled "Youth Innovation and Action Lab (YIAL)" which focussed on youth empowerment and innovation, and is an incubation and accelerator programme to promote entrepreneurship. Out of the all the ideas presented during the pilot phase, one idea was taken for implementation phase in this project. Cities today generate a huge amount of waste leading to pollution and related health problems. While most of the daily use products are chemically based products; on the other hand, biodegradable waste products from homes and commercial/religious spaces add on to the waste in the city, which could be otherwise used more productively for producing chemically-free organic products.

One group of youth saw this as an opportunity and have conceptualized "OrgniCleaners" which seeks to utilize the fruit and vegetable waste to produce bio-enzymes. These bio enzymes will be used in

the production of organic manure and products like floor cleaners, handwash, rosewater etc. Thus, the project empowered marginalized youth in Delhi to establish and manage innovative circular economy enterprises like "OrgniCleaners". Through skill-building, mentorship, and sustainable business practices, the project created self-sustaining ventures that address waste management, promote eco-friendly practices, and foster entrepreneurship among young individual.

Measures of Success:

- The project was able to achieve the following major milestones during the reporting period
- The reporting period saw the establishment of the "Youth Led Orgni-Cleaner Enterprises & Field office" and was operationalized. Further the launch of the production unit was also completed in the reporting period
 - 24 Youth gained knowledge in



life skills, financial literacy, digital literacy, Entrepreneurial skills as per plan. Thus, we have achieved ~69% of the desired target of reaching out to 35 youth, in the first phase of the project itself.

- Two experts were employed for providing technical and hand holding support to the youth on the various aspects of production of the Orgni-Cleaner, and for providing legal and administrative support in setting up of the production unit.



Two field exposure visits were also organised at benchmark units at Gurugram and Bhiwadi Rajasthan for the youth to make them understand the different phases of the production along with the technical details that needs to be kept in mind during the production of the Orgni-Cleaner.

Through all these initiatives, we had Empowered 24 marginalized youth (Male and Female), particularly young women, with entrepreneurial skills, knowledge, and confidence to establish and run successful enterprises and generating income leading to fostering economic independence. Further, the project implemented innovative initiatives as sustainable circular economy models that minimize waste and resource consumption and promoted environmental stewardship.



Additional Information

Mr. Rahul, a dedicated member of our Green and Clean Enterprises, shared an inspiring update during our recent meeting. Since joining the project, his confidence and business skills have soared to new heights. He expressed his excitement about their first production batch, set to arrive in the second week of July 2024. With this milestone, Mr. Rahul proudly affirmed that he now feels fully capable of running a successful business. His journey is a testament to the power of determination and growth. Keep pushing forward, and great things will follow



Strengthening Aspirational Block Program for Improved Nutritional Outcomes- Shrawasti, Uttar Pradesh

Key Initiatives or Changes: The Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) on January 7, 2023. The programme focuses on improving governance to enhance the quality of life of citizens and service delivery in the remotest and less developed blocks of India. In the aspirational district of Shrawasti, located in Uttar Pradesh, the block of Jamunaha had been grappling with persistent challenges related to malnutrition among children under the age of five. Despite the efforts of the government and various stakeholders, the nutritional indicators in the region remained a cause for concern.

The project focused on building the capacity of frontline workers. The need for building the capacity of the front-line workers was crucial for achieving the project's goal and was seconded and supported by the district health officials. During the rapid need assessment carried out to understand the operational gaps, the following gaps were revealed w.r.t to the capacity of the front-line workers:

- Understanding the technical and operational details in operating the digital application, Poshan Tracker & E-Kawach Application, including correct data entry in the application.
- Correct technique to be followed for weighing a child
- Plotting weight on growth charts and interpreting growth curve

Thus, all the ASHA Sanginis, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) participated in intensive training sessions to address the gaps mentioned.

This project stood as a fine example of how partnership with government departments and joining hands for a common cause can amplify the reach and availability of benefits in the community. The power of convergence and interdepartmental coordination became evident. It resulted in the increased collaboration between the ASHA, ANMs and Anganwadi Worker (AWW) to facilitates the ASHA's task of mapping households in her coverage area. Thus, the AAAs multiplied their forces in the task of liaising between the community and the public health system. This can be particularly seen with the increased effectiveness of VHSND as the project progressed. Thus, by fostering dialogue between various departments and securing support from key decision-makers, the project achieved synergy among stakeholders. Sustaining this collaborative spirit would be instrumental in realizing holistic nutrition services.

Innovative Approaches or Strategies: The Project is based on the Technical Assistance Model which comprised



of Preparation, Plan, Implementation, Evaluation, and Sustainability components. The Project model consist of 4 pillars (as depicted in the diagram below):

- Pillar 1: Awareness Generation
- Pillar 2: Capacity Building of Front-Line Workers (FLWs)
- Pillar 3: Identification and Reporting
- Pillar 4: Case Management

Through the implementation of the strategies, it led to more parents and guardian's footfall during the Vajan Divas and VHSND for getting the growth monitoring of the child done, thereby resulting in increased enrolment in the Poshan Tracker and E-Kawach application. This joint effort resulted in all the SAM /MAM children identified receiving proper medication, increase in admission in NRC with less resistance from the parents and proper follow up mechanism for the SAM and MAM children. Thus, by working together with government agencies, we have been able to continue our endeavours for the welfare of children.

Measures of Success:

The project was able to achieve the following major milestones during the entire reporting period:

- Improved capacity of 167 frontline workers, including Anganwadi Workers, Asha Sanginis, and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs). These dedicated individuals received training on using the Poshan Tracker and E-Kawach Application, enabling them to monitor and track children's nutritional status more effectively.
- The 167 frontline workers received comprehensive training on documenting and reporting cases of the triple burden – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight/obesity.
- The measuring efficiency for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases also improved remarkably, soaring from 92.77% in June 2023 to an impressive 98.99% by May 2024
- Most significantly, the percentage of SAM and MAM cases decreased substantially. In June 2023, SAM cases were 3.09%, but dropped to 1.20% by May 2024 through proper reporting, follow-up, and medication provision. MAM cases also fell from 7.27% to 2.71% over the same period, showing remarkable nutritional status improvement.

The meticulously designed project led to an increasing number of children actively tracked from 26,179 in June 2023 to 29148 in May 2024 ensuring more children received vigilant healthcare. Most significantly, the percentage of SAM and MAM cases decreased substantially. In June 2023, SAM cases were 3.09%, but dropped to 1.20% by May 2024 through proper reporting, follow-up,



and medication provision. MAM cases also fell from 7.27% to 2.71% over the same period, a remarkable nutritional status improvement.

Further, through regular meetings and collaboration with stakeholders, the project fostered a culture of teamwork, enhancing program implementation and coordination. The innovative convergence model exemplified effective cooperation among various entities, ultimately strengthening Integrated Child



Development Services (ICDS) for the benefit of children.

Their comprehensive reports laid the groundwork for replicating their success across other districts, ensuring a lasting impact beyond Jamunaha (the project implementation block). Thus, Jamunaha Block stood as a shining example of what collective action, dedication, and commitment could achieve for a community's most vulnerable members.



Room To Grow-Delhi RP MAC

Key Initiatives or Changes:

India has the world's fastest-expanding major economy, which has helped lift millions out of poverty in the past decade. This has led to unabated growth of its major towns like Delhi and Mumbai. Delhi has been the prime destination for migrants from the surrounding state for past many decades. These migrant families often concentrate in slums and squatter dwellings and must struggle for their existence. They live in a very unhealthy concentration with no schools, no health centres, no open spaces for children to play.

A Multi Activity Centre (MAC) developed acts as an one stop solution set up in the intervention area for younger children and at risk children, of the age group of 3-6 years, out-of-school children, of the age group of 6-14 years, which include never enrolled and dropped out including those engaged in child labour or living in street situations or multi-deprivation and adolescents and youth, of the age group of 15-24 years to improve their existing situations and offer them opportunities for schooling and learning vocational skills to provide them with a better future. In addition, the MAC also double up in providing platform for strengthening the family and community eco system. The objective of setting up such a centre is to adopt the life cycle approach for the betterment of the vulnerable and deprived section of the society.

In BRB objective of empowering children, youth and community despite the various challenges and limitation that arose during this period, Bal Raksha Bharat addressed the challenge of out of school children, youth unemployment and creating an ecosystem for formation of child protection mechanism within



the community, BRB showcased the efforts of providing access to quality education, vocational training, and opportunities for personal growth and development for creating a more equitable and inclusive society.

Innovative Approaches or Strategies:

The model aims to adopt a 'continuum of care' approach. The strategy and the methodology consist of:

- Direct action with working children and those at risk and their families to improve their existing situations and offer them opportunities for coping up with formal education, take up formal education (schooling), retention in formal education.
- Collaboration with corporates and skill council to help move adolescents from hazardous working situations to decent work by creating opportunities for an improved career through job skill enhancement and life skills training, including soft skills

- Empowering children, family and communities to challenge and disown practices that support economic exploitation of children and adolescents in the form of labour and emphasis on accessing social protection schemes and basic rights

Applying these strategies, the project was able to contribute towards strengthening the socio-ecological ecosystem of vulnerable families enabled through the following outcome levels:

- Children at risk and/or found out of school were rehabilitated respectively through increased access to quality education.
- Adolescents and youth were trained on life skills, employable and entrepreneurial skills (financial literacy, vocational and life skills) enabling greater accessibility to employment in viable livelihood thus empowering them to carve their own dream future

- Child Protection systems at multiple levels (community and Govt. systemic levels) were activated thus strengthening the child protection mechanism of the community thus reinforcing government initiatives for a more equitable and inclusive society

Measures of Success:

The project was able to achieve the following major milestones during the reporting period

- 311 out of school children were enrolled in the 5-project intervention area spread across 4 districts of Delhi. These children were provided with the academic support through bridge course, provided psychosocial support, and provided with health camp facilities
- 80 children were mainstreamed to

formal education after successful completion of the bridge course.

- 400 Youth gained knowledge in life skills, financial literacy and digital literacy thus helping them to inherit 21st century skills
- 300 youth were enrolled to Vocational Training Course out of which 178 have completed the course and have been placed into decent employment and the process to place the remaining unplaced youth is still continuing
- 57 youth enrolled for National Institute for Open Schooling thus giving them an opportunity to complete the education. Additionally, 8 youth were given training on

Entrepreneurship Development Programme and given the appropriate kits.

- 963 community members were oriented in the appropriate social protection schemes
- 59 children were trained as child champion who would work as a voice of change for their respective communities
- Additionally, 4 Child Protection Committee were established across the 4 project intervention area.



Success Story

Rupali, 20 years old young girl from a small village in Bihar, relocated to Delhi a year ago with her mother and elder brother and her mother, who lives separately from her husband. They live in a rented home, and her mother works as a baby caregiver. Due to financial hardships, Rupali had to drop out of school before completing her 10th grade when they left Bihar.

During a visit to her home, our team identified Rupali's potential and the importance of continuing her education. We spoke to her mother about the benefits of education and encouraged Rupali to enroll in the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for her 10th grade. However, we encountered several challenges: Rupali did not have her educational documents, and her identification proof needed updating. To address these issues, we contacted her former school and teacher in Bihar, who



provided the necessary educational documents. We also assisted Rupali in correcting her date of birth and changing her address from Bihar to Delhi on her identification proof. With all the required documentation in place, we successfully enrolled her in NIOS. Rupali took the life skills sessions seriously, gaining the confidence and skills needed for her studies and future career. We also helped her open a bank account and enrolled her in a stitching center to pursue her interest in

tailoring. Rupali's story demonstrates the significant impact of support and determination in overcoming obstacles and building a promising future.

Conclusion

Rupali's engagement in the life skills sessions and her enrollment in NIOS have set her on the path to completing her education. Additionally, her participation in the stitching center has allowed her to develop valuable vocational skills. Rupali's story highlights the transformative impact of targeted support and determination. With the right assistance, she has been able to overcome significant challenges, resume her education, and work towards a brighter future. This case underscores the importance of educational and skill development programs in empowering underprivileged youth.

Strengthening of Child Centric Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) Centre at the National Institute of Disaster Management to mainstream the Children Agenda

Key Initiatives or Changes:

Child Centric approach was generally confined to Developmental Program with distribution of essential materials or providing relief material being the only major activity in Humanitarian context. Though disaster affects the life of all the people of the society, it has been seen that the children are the most vulnerable and overlooked though it threaten the lives, the rights and the needs of children around the world. The children's vulnerability to disasters is expected to increase as the frequency and intensity of natural hazards rises. Thus, building resilience in children and communities and reducing their vulnerability to disasters has, therefore, become ever more imperative. By collaborating with NIDM, Bal Raksha Bharat is aiming to leverage its expertise in child-centric approaches to influence national and state policies, integrate



its capacity-building modules into government training programs, and expand its reach in building resilience among youth and children from the vulnerable section of the society.

Thus, the project in partnership with NIDM strengthened the knowledge, understanding and skills of relevant stakeholders on Child centric disaster

risk reduction to ensure ZERO tolerance for Children at Risk, thereby aligning with BRB goal of building partnership and alliance that have been instrumental in sustaining and amplifying our impact and reach. Thus, this partnership further strengthened the mission of reaching out to the very last child and contribute to the welfare of the children.



Innovative Approaches or Strategies:

The following strategies were implemented for the project:

- Developing a cadre of skilled trainers and youth volunteers on the theme of Child Centric Disaster Risk Reduction, Child Protection and Child Rights in Emergencies, Education in Emergencies and cascade the trainings to government officials from ICPS structure, Women & Child Welfare, Education, Revenue, Police, Response Agencies, Universities, Health, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department etc.
- Develop Training Manuals for EiE and CPIE and other training materials, publications and research findings which would be available to use by government stakeholders to conduct further training

As part of the collaboration and the strategy developed, NIDM facilitated joint ToT training, and webinars, engaged in collaborative research on child vulnerability, publish relevant materials, train youth responders, and provide human resource support to the CCDRR Center. These impact of these efforts focused on strengthening disaster resilience and child well-being by integrating child-centric agendas into national and state policies.

Measures of Success:

The main key achievement of the project are listed as under:

- A series of 09 Training Trainers (ToT) for five days organized across the country.
- A total number of 431 mid and senior-level government officers from WCD, Health, Police, Fire, Education, NDFR, and ICDS, from 20 different states received the training
- 3 Regional consultations on Child-



- Centric Disaster Risk Reduction brought together 247 government officers from 18 states from East, North, and South Regions
- 2 state-level consultations focused on Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh attended by more than 150 government officials.

One of the significant outcomes is the signing of a non-financial MoU with Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HP-SDMA). 3 training modules on CPIE, EiE and H&NiE have been developed which

will be incorporated as regular training courses in NIDM capacity-building initiatives. Realizing the importance of CCDRR programmes, state government ATIs started conducting CCDRR training on their own. The CCDR centre had also reached the last mile with a gender-sensitive, disability-inclusive & youth-oriented approach. The project had also collaborated with all the national-level stakeholders Govt & Non Govt working in the field to create a pool of resource personnel at district, state & national level.



Strengthening the Early Childhood Care and Education system in Anganwadi Centres of the East district, Delhi – Phase 2



Key Initiatives or Changes:

Foundation is important when it comes to education. Early Childhood Education and Care or ECCE is the foundation for a human being to grow mentally and emotionally strong. As per statistics, there are 13.7 lakh Anganwadi centres in India which provide ECCE services to children below the age of 6. But due to inadequate supervision, a lack of knowledge about health and education facilities still exists. Even the NEP 2020 states “To prepare an initial cadre of high-quality ECCE teachers in Anganwadi, current Anganwadi workers/teachers need to be trained through a systematic effort in accordance with the curricular/ pedagogical framework developed by NCERT.

Keeping the above objective in mind, The project, “Strengthening the Early Childhood Care and Education

system in Anganwadi Centres of the East district, Delhi – Phase 2” was implemented to impart quality Early Childhood Care and Education concept towards effectively creating a conducive environment for children of the age group of 0–8-year-old at their homes and community through developing a building the capacity of Anganwadi Workers, Supervisor and Helpers on the new age ECCE concept (through or common approach of Ready to Learn) and developing Saksham Anganwadi Centre

The project supported the government mission for developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity from malnutrition in the community as stated in government vision in “Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0” and helped in delivering quality ECCE services to the most marginalized children and the community.

Innovative Approaches or Strategies:

The project took the innovative approach to implement Smart Learning through distributing Infrastructure Support & Smart Learning Aids such as: Distribution of LED TV (43 Inches) along with Stabilizer along with Pen Drive (256GB), HDMI Cable and Bluetooth Speakers and water purifier; Distribution of Smart Learning Aids and Teaching Learning Aids

Through this, the selected Anganwadi Centres (15 nos) were well equipped with better infrastructure including internet/wifi connectivity, water purifier and Early Childhood Care and Education with smart learning aids, audio-visual aids, child-friendly learning equipment thereby aligning BRB objective with the government’s vision.

The ICT material provided to the AWCs was much appreciated by both, the ICDS Department & Community people. The ECCE resource material (shared through Pen Drives) being showed (through the TV that was provided to these AWC) to parents was seen to bring about a positive change by enhancing their knowledge about activities related to children’s learning through playful methods thereby enhancing the goodwill, trust and faith the community and our stakeholders have on BRB. This served as significant example of the benefit of the use of technology in everyday learning concepts.

Father’s involvement in parents’ orientation on ELM, Building Brains & Gulmohar helped in breaking the gender stereo types norms of the ECCE concept being a female oriented concept.

This also paves the way in incorporating new techniques and designing to include more and more male participants thereby underlining the BRB’s objective of gender inclusion.

Measures of Success:

The project was able to achieve the following major milestones during the entire reporting period:

Supported 15 Anganwadi Centre with the required Infrastructure Support which included providing LED Screen, Water Purifiers, Smart Learning Aids & Age-Appropriate Teaching Learning Materials

Implemented BLES (Building Learning Environment in School) or Art Work in all the selected 15 targeted Anganwadi Centers

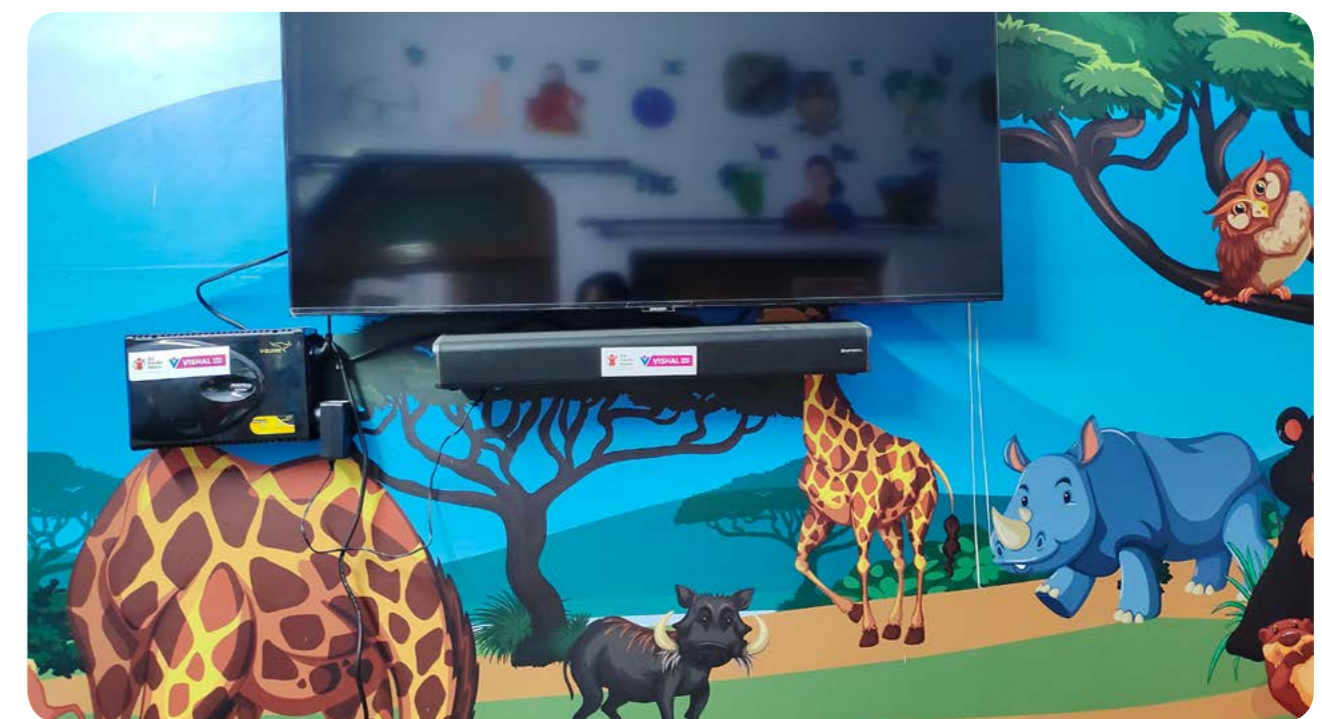
Build the capacity of 75 Front Line Workers which included Anganwadi Workers, Anganwadi Helpers, Supervisor and CDPO on ECCE concepts (Emergent Literacy & Mathematics and Building Brains), The project period also saw the training and capacity building of 542 parents on the ECCE concepts and ways to implement them at home environment

With all the activities aimed in strengthening Anganwadi Centres and

building the capacity of the front-line workers and caregivers we could reach out to 491 children across these 15 Anganwadi Centres and reach out to 542 parents and caregivers

There were many reported cases where the community people were elated with the transformation of the conventional AWCs and thanked everyone involved in the BLES work for providing such a space for their children. A perfect example of the impact of the BLES work had on the community can be gauged from the fact that the ICDS requested Bal Raksha Bharat to transform 2 of their creches on the line of the BLES transformed AWCs

ICDS officials also expressed gratitude to Bal Raksha Bharat for their invaluable contribution, acknowledging that such a transformation would have been impossible through conventional means. The revamped AWCs not only accelerated children’s learning but also fostered a sense of joy and enthusiasm among all stakeholders





Success Story

A Journey of Transformation: Muskaan's Preschool to AWC Admission Post BLES Work



In the bustling neighbourhood of Sewa Sadden Mandawali, in East Delhi, resides the family of Mr. Omkar and Mrs. Urmila, along with their two adorable children, Muskaan and Prashant.

Muskaan, a four-year-old child, the elder daughter of Urmila & Omkar, was enrolled at Anganwadi Centre No. 56, in Mandawali a year ago which comes under SSK (Saheli Samanvya Kendra) wherein two centres (Centre no 56 & 57) are running in the same premises with two adjoining rooms. She started coming to the anganwadi with curiosity to explore and learn new things, but soon lost interest due to the lack of playful and child friendly surroundings, play materials, and educational resources in the Anganwadi Centre. With minimal learning materials and uninspiring activities, Muskaan's interest waned, prompting her to express her reluctance to attend the Anganwadi. Despite many efforts from her parents and the Anganwadi worker, Muskaan didn't agree to come to the

Centre and thus, eventually left the Anganwadi.

Her concerned parents, despite their financial constraints, sought alternatives and enrolled Muskaan in a nearby private school, D.M.P. School, hoping for a better learning experience. Though she was going to school but nothing changed, she wasn't liking the new school as well.

Meanwhile, Bal Raksha Bharat implemented project "Strengthening the Early Childhood Care and Education System in Anganwadi Centres of the East Delhi" with the support of Vishal Mega Mart. Ever since the project intervened in the intervention location, it brought significant changes in the Anganwadi Centre (Anganwadi Centre No 56 also being a part of it), with the implementation of BLES (Building Learning Environment at School) work infused the centre with vibrancy. Further the provision of educational resources, ELM kits, learning materials, a Television, Pen Drive with Gulmohar Videos, colourful interlocking Mats, Child friendly Bookshelf with many colourful age-appropriate story books, TLM, and interactive learning tools adorned the centre, captivating the children's imagination.

The project team members engaged in innovative activities, enhancing the children's learning levels. Urmila, (Muskaan's mother), became an active participant in the parent group formed under the project. She received orientation on Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE), Emergent Literacy & Maths (ELM) at home, and Building Brains, empowering her to foster her children's learning at home through playful methods. Muskaan's younger brother was also enrolled in the same

Anganwadi Centre and through him Urmila received learning kits for her children. This Learning Kit also helped Muskaan learn at home.

During the school holidays, Urmila introduced Muskaan to the transformed Anganwadi Centre no 56, and she, at once, started to take a liking for it. Muskaan was particularly captivated by the artwork on the walls, the Gulmohar Videos playing on TV, and the abundance of learning materials and fun-filled activities available. Muskaan's eyes sparkled with curiosity as she engaged herself in counting, learning English and Hindi alphabets, and discovering fascinating facts about animals through the BLES work adorning the Anganwadi walls.

The newfound joy and enthusiasm in Muskaan were undeniable. Her parents, witnessing her blossoming interest and learning, made the heartfelt decision to re-enrol her in Anganwadi Centre. The siblings, Muskaan and Prashant, now coming to the centre daily, brimming with happiness and excitement. Her parents, the Anganwadi Worker Manju, and project team staff members used to feel happy and contented seeing Muskaan's reluctance to leave the Anganwadi and return home.

The impact of the project's intervention was profound, not only on Muskaan and her brother's life but on the entire community. The once lacklustre Anganwadi had become a beacon of hope and opportunity, thanks to the collaborative efforts of Bal Raksha Bharat and Vishal Mega Mart. Gratitude filled the hearts of the community as they witnessed the transformative power of BLES Work, paving the way for a brighter future for generations to come.



Humanitarian Response - Joshimath, Uttarakhand



Key Initiatives or Changes:

Joshimath is located in Zone V of India's seismic zonation scheme, which denotes a high-risk area. More cracks appeared in buildings in the month of December 2022 and January 2023, where around 863 households were identified where the cracks have appeared and out of which 278 families were displaced to the safe places identified by DDMA. Many Anganwadi centres and Schools also fall in the unsafe wards.

Joshimath Land Subsidence Project signifies Bal Raksha Bharat implementation of humanitarian response which was not restricted to just distribution of the necessary materials. The project saw the upgradation from setting up of Child Friendly Space (CFS) to graduating to CFS cum TLC cum MAC center which were equipped with necessary educational resources to ensure that children and adolescents affected by the disaster can resume their education promptly. Bridge course was designed to guide dropout, never-enrolled, and irregular students

towards embarking on an educational journey and towards successful mainstreaming them to formal education. Recreational activities tailored for children between the ages of 6 to 14, focusing on enhancing intellectual, creative and innovative abilities and fostering a positive learning environment. Since the nature of the disaster is recurring, we build the community understanding of the concept of PVCA, made them aware of the tools to be used in the community in case of any disaster like situation, and introduced the concept of Psychosocial support and familiarising of it within the community thereby increasing the community resilience to further disasters.

All the above-mentioned collaborative effort was a marked improvement that was hardly seen in any other disaster response.

Further, with the revoking of the FCRA licence and the subsequent challenges and BRB's zeal to resolutely stand with the people of

Joshimath in the time of grave crisis by overcoming all the challenges exemplifies BRB's indomitable spirit thereby helping them to gain the goodwill, trust and faith of the people of Joshimath. It also paved the way to replicate the model of Joshimath in other disaster-prone area, thereby scaling our reach, impact and mission to reach to most vulnerable children and community.

Innovative Approaches or Strategies:

The strategies that were implemented in Joshimath were as follows:

- Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) In Emergency: Creation of a cadre of trained ICDS functionaries across the project intervention on Ready to Learn (Save the Children Module) and Psychosocial First Aid to help children learn better at CFS and other Anganwadi Centers.
- Education in Emergency (EiE): Providing uninterrupted education to the affected children by setting up of academic classes in CFSs.
- Child Protection in Emergency: Development/Installation of Child Friendly Spaces/Anganwadi Centers by equipping them with innovative child-centric materials, creating an enabling environment and to facilitate Psychosocial First Aid support to encourage and facilitate children to cope with their mental situation including their family members.

Migrant families, in particular the Nepali Families who migrated to the city in search of daily wages and better livelihood opportunities faced the greatest challenges of providing quality education to the children. Their children, in particular, were often left unsupervised for the entire



day while their parents worked. Many Nepali children never had the opportunity to enrol in schools or Anganwadi Centre due to various obstacles such as financial instability, lack of identification documents, language barriers, and social marginalization. The educational support provided through our Child-Friendly Spaces has enabled these children to access education, challenge societal norms and achieve age-appropriate learning level, thus helping in the BRB's objective of creating an equitable society for all and fulfil our mission to reach to the very last child.

Measures of Success:

The project was able to achieve the following major milestone during the duration of the project;

- Throughout the project, a total of 1390 children received assistance, gaining access to continued education and safe, child-friendly learning spaces through the Education in Emergency (EiE) approach, alongside psychological first aid support.
- Through the project, we also reached 650 Household aiming to enhance resilience and provide children in the community with a safe and healthy environment for growth, thereby mitigating the ongoing impact of the disaster.
- An initiative to strengthen Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) during emergencies was undertaken,

involving the training of 42 Anganwadi workers. These workers subsequently implemented ECCE practices with children on the ground.

- The emotional distress triggered by disastrous situations significantly impacts various aspects of individuals' lives, including occupation, interpersonal relationships, and physical health. Bal Raksha Bharat intervened with Psychological First Aid in disaster-affected areas of Joshimath, reaching out to 1294 children to assess their support need
- PVCA exercise has been completed in all 11 identified communities of our project intervention area. The exercise increased the

resilience of the community to address any disaster situation through a collaborative effort, as well as ensure community involvement to reduce vulnerability to disasters to diagnose capacities and vulnerabilities. Family Preparedness Exercise has been completed with 650 families to enhance the capacity of families to reduce disaster risk by increasing awareness, and knowledge and collaborating on family emergency planning at the grassroots level.

- 85 women have been trained and equipped with the soft skills and other hardware material required to start their enterprise. (start-up).
- 57 individuals were trained as first responders to manage any disaster situation through task force training conducted on Early Warning, First Aid, Search and Rescue, Shelter Management, and

Psycho-social Support.

The positive impact of the project can be very well gauged from the fact that the Joshimath Response which started with 4 CFSs (confined only to Joshimath Town) gradually grew to 8 CFSs in Joshimath and other villages (with one CFs being set at 180 km from Joshimath town) in a span of 6 month on the request of the Department of Education on seeing the positive changes which were observed in the child who were engaged in the various response activities held in CFS. The Child Friendly Space (CFS) developed is providing a platform in the project intervention area for younger children (3-6-year-old) and children (6-14-year-old) to help in the holistic development of the child and bridge any academic gap that may have been created due to the land subsidence event through providing bridge course to them.

The project has raised awareness among the members of the ICDS staff on various types of disasters, and risks along with the ways to tackle such situation which would directly increase their understanding of disasters and their ability to implement preparedness measures. This in turn will help both children and adults in the project intervention area and communities

One of the biggest achievement and impact of the project is the effort to bring the most marginalized community in Joshimath such as the Nepali Community, into mainstream society thereby breaking the prejudices and stigma associated with these communities. The project has successfully mainstreamed 5 Nepali Children to formal education and increased awareness among the other members of the Nepali community on Child Rights and Child Protection



Success Story

Strengthening the Mental and Intellectual core to enhance the resilience of existence



challenges posed by the disaster in Joshimath.

To kick-start our intervention efforts, we established five CFS centres in various communities within Joshimath- Marwadi, Chawni, Singhdhar, Sunil & Thaing. Each CFS centre was overseen by a dedicated CFS facilitator who addressed both the educational and basic mental health needs of the children. Within a span of three months during our intervention, we observed noticeable improvements in the children's well-being. Below, we provide a few examples of such cases.

One of the cases is from the CFS centre established in Marwari. 2 children named Chandrasekhar and Chandan belonging to a migratory family from Bihar were identified by our team. The situation in Joshimath had a profound impact on their inner well-being. Upon their arrival at the center, they appeared utterly vacant and disconnected. We initiated sensory-based activities to help them reconnect with the present moment and their surroundings. They were unable to even write their names. However, after spending four months in our center, a transformation has started taking place. They are now forging connections, displaying smiles, and forming relationships with their fellow peers. Furthermore, they have developed the ability to read

In response to the land subsidence issue, we initiated programs focusing on mental health and addressing the learning and educational gaps that had arisen in children's lives due to the disruption. To provide a secure and nurturing environment for children, we established Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS), which served as hubs for learning, self-expression, exploration, and relaxation.

Education plays a vital role in the operation of CFS centres during emergencies, alongside the critical aspect of mental health support. The fundamental objective of CFS is to empower children emotionally and intellectually as they navigate the

and write in both Hindi and English, and they have successfully secured admission to a school.

Another notable and impactful case involves three Nepali children, Akash, Niraj, and Naveen, residing in Singhdhar. These children have experienced social isolation due to their status as non-residents in another country, which was one of the reasons they were not enrolled in school. Their family's livelihood depends on daily income, leading to challenges in providing them with proper nurturing and education. When we first identified them, they lacked adequate reading and writing skills.

Upon enrolling them in our Child-Friendly Space (CFS) program, our primary goal was to ensure their visibility and self-acceptance within the community. By addressing both their socio-emotional well-being and intellectual development, we were able to successfully secure admission for all three of them in the first grade at the Primary School in Singhdhar. Similar to these instances, numerous cases have emerged from all our Child-Friendly Space (CFS) centers where we have witnessed significant positive transformations in the lives of children. Our overarching objective is to prioritize the enhancement of both educational learning and the promotion of positive mental well-being among these children. This strategic focus aims to equip them with the resilience needed to overcome any future adversities or disasters.



India Flood Response 2023 in Himachal Pradesh



Key Initiatives or Changes:

Himachal Pradesh, India, faced a severe crisis as it grappled with continuous flash floods and cloudbursts during the month of July 2023 and August 2023. The regions of Mandi and Solan were particularly affected by these devastating natural disasters. The situation led to significant damage to life and property and necessitated an immediate response to aid the affected individuals.

The planning to launch a humanitarian response in the affected area was conceptualized in the month of July'23 with activities ranging from distribution of essential resource materials and providing Psychosocial First Aid services, but unfortunately, the revoking of the FCRA license during this period dealt a severe blow

in launching a swift humanitarian response in the area. Unperturbed by the new challenge and focussing on the mission to reach out to the most vulnerable person in the area, BRB reached out to the local donors and corporate CSR funds to help/fund the response. The BRB team's resilience and dedication paved the way in attracting 3 CSR donors to fund response.

Recognizing the need to address the requirements of the population, Bal Raksha Bharat (BRB) implemented a comprehensive strategy for restoring and upgrade the damaged healthcare facility in the Solan and Mandi Districts. Bal Raksha Bharat's proposed strategy was at three level - Preparedness, Response and Recovery conceptualized in partnership with the CSR donors involved in strengthening

Primary healthcare facilities for resilient recovery impacted due to these floods.

Innovative Approaches or Strategies:

One of the major innovative approaches that was implemented was the introduction of technology to reach out to the most remote part of this mountainous state with essential medical supplies. The Drone capable of carrying 15 kg of medical supplies would prove to be a ground breaking advancement in reaching out to the most remote villages in the area or areas where all possible road connection have been severed due to landslides, floods or other disaster. The Drone could deliver medications and supplies to patients being cared for in the home instead of a hospital-based setting, which might have been

damaged due to any disaster like situation such as flood, landslides, etc. Thus, this is a big step in ensuring continuous medical care even in times of severe disaster

The response strategy implemented by Bal Raksha Bharat (BRB) in the flood-affected areas of Himachal Pradesh was comprehensive and proactive. As soon as the disaster struck, the BRB team initiated on-ground coordination and selected

health facilities in collaboration with the respective Chief Medical Officers (CMO) and Block Medical Officers (BMO). A dedicated team of 6 to 7 members was deployed for needs assessment, and engaging with the community in the district. A key aspect of their efforts was gathering information about the affected areas and families. Working in close collaboration with community volunteers, the team collected detailed data on families impacted

by the floods. This information was crucial for directing targeted relief initiatives and enhancing the decision-making process

The successful implementation of the disaster management project underscores the efficacy of coordinated initiatives in enhancing disaster resilience in rural communities. By repairing health facilities, raising awareness, forming a dedicated committee, and conducting





training drills, the project has empowered villagers and fortified the community's ability to mitigate risks and respond resiliently to disasters.

The methodical approach of the project was designed to maximize the use of resources and personnel. It ensured that each response team was fully prepared to meet the specific needs of each location. Bal Raksha Bharat tailored the deployment plan to the unique requirements of each area, aiming to enhance the impact of the response activities and provide timely support to the families affected by the disaster

Measures of Success:

The response was able to achieve the following major milestones during the entire reporting period:

- Infrastructure revamping done (including restoration and repair work) in all the 10 Primary Health Facility, thereby achieving 100% of the desired target
- Capacity Building Training

(including practical sessions, where ever required) for the staff of all the selected 15 Primary Health Centers were conducted on the following topics, thus achieving 100% of the target:

- o Disaster Preparedness
- o Health Facility Risk/Vulnerability Assessment Exercise
- o Safe Health Facility and Safe Community Plan
- o Mock Drills
- A 12 days' awareness campaign was organized with the objective to improve behavior change of communities on health, nutrition & wash during emergency like situation in two identified districts of Solan and Mandi in Himachal Pradesh. During the awareness campaign we could reach to reached 88564 people
- Procurement and handing over facilitating technology level support (Drone) to the state authorities for delivering essential

medical supplies in coordination with district administration.

- Distribution of 1085 Food Kits, 1295 Hygiene Kits, 1646 Shelter Kits and 390 Health Equipment (BP Machines) thereby reaching to close to 25K affected people

Bal Raksha Bharat (BRB) team implemented a post-distribution/post-response feedback mechanism, which has been vital in evaluating the impact and effectiveness of the response. After the distribution and other response activities (such as PFA, strengthening of Health Facility), the team engaged with the beneficiaries to collect their feedback on the usefulness and suitability of the kits and the feedback received by enhancing the health facility. The feedback received indicated that the impact from the various response activities were immensely beneficial. This positive response highlights the success of the initiative in meeting the immediate needs of the affected families and children.

Success Story

Overcoming Adversity: Ms. Preeto Devi's Journey of Resilience

Background

Ms. Preeto Devi, widow of the late Lt. Sh. Tara Chand, is a resilient individual currently residing with her daughters, Beena (20 years old), Sushma (13.5 years old), and Kamaljeet (11 years old). Following the untimely demise of her husband due to a heart attack in 2017, Preeto found herself confronted with immense challenges in raising her children in their village of Silh-Sunani. Tragedy struck once more in 2020 when Preeto's 17-year-old son succumbed to a snake bite, leaving the family grief-stricken and struggling to cope.

The family's plight worsened when heavy rainfall triggered a devastating landslide on August 15th, 2023, which obliterated their home and agricultural land. Forced to seek refuge with her parents, Preeto and her daughters relocated to her maternal home in the village of Jaman da Dora, where they became reliant on the support of relatives for their basic needs. The turmoil disrupted Beena's education, compelling her to halt her studies after completing her 12th-grade examination.

Current Context

Amidst this adversity, a beacon of hope emerged in the form of the 'India Flood Response - 2023' project



initiated by Bal Raksha Bharat in collaboration with Zee Entertainment. In January 2023, during a distribution event for hygiene kits at the Health Sub Center/Health and Wellness Center in Jaman Da Dora, Beena shared her family's hardships with the field staff. Touched by their story, Bal Raksha Bharat, along with Zee Entertainment, distributed 30 hygiene kits to families in need within the Bawasini Panchayat, including Preeto Devi's.

The partnership between Bal Raksha Bharat, the health facility, and the Panchayati Raj institution culminated in a community sensitization session on personal hygiene. Preeto and Beena were among the beneficiaries of this initiative, receiving hygiene kits and expressing their gratitude for the support provided by Bal Raksha Bharat and Zee Entertainment. Beena emphasized the significance of the hygiene kit in promoting good hygiene practices among girls and women in

their community.

Furthermore, Preeto's active involvement in the Disaster Management Committee reflects her newfound understanding of the importance of disaster preparedness, illustrating her resilience and commitment to safeguarding her family and community.

Conclusion

Ms. Preeto Devi's journey through adversity underscores the power of resilience and the transformative impact of community support. Despite facing numerous setbacks, Preeto and her daughters have persevered with dignity, finding strength in the solidarity extended by organizations like Bal Raksha Bharat and Zee Entertainment. Through their intervention efforts and partnerships with local institutions, tangible strides have been made towards rebuilding lives and fostering resilience in the face of adversity.



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GENERAL BODY OF BAL RAKSHA BHARAT

Report on the Audit of Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **BAL RAKSHA BHARAT** ("the Society") which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Cash Flow Statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India ('ICAI') and other accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the state of affairs of the Society as at 31 March 2024 and its excess of expenditure over income and its cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the financial statements in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the ICAI together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ICAI's Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence obtained by us is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion on the financial statements.

Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to Note 1(a) and 1 (b) to the financial statements, which describes the effects of the refusal of renewal application under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and that an application has been filed for registration. As indicated in note 1(b) to the financial statements, the scope, duration or outcome of this matter including with respect to the balances that have vested with the prescribed authority cannot be assessed at this stage with any degree of predictability.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.



Audited Statements

Deloitte Haskins & Sells

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

The Society's management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the Society in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the ICAI, and other accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records for safeguarding the assets of the Society and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management and the General Body is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The General Body is responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal financial controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal controls.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.



Deloitte Haskins & Sells

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Materiality is the magnitude of misstatements in the financial statements that, individually or in aggregate, makes it probable that the economic decisions of a reasonably knowledgeable user of the financial statements may be influenced. We consider quantitative materiality and qualitative factors in (i) planning the scope of our audit work and in evaluating the results of our work; and (ii) to evaluate the effect of any identified misstatements in the financial statements.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.



For Deloitte Haskins & Sells
Chartered Accountants
(Firm's Registration No: 015125N)

Alka Chadha

Alka Chadha
Partner
(Membership No. 93474)
(UDIN: 24093474BKCKWW7477)

Place: New Delhi
Date :28 May, 2024

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BAL RAKSHA BHARAT
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule No.	As at 31 March 2024	As at 31 March 2023
Sources of Funds		
Corpus fund	11,400	11,400
Restricted fund	328,205,905	362,333,992
Endowment fund	216,975,000	216,975,000
Empathy fund	53,621,565	61,038,246
General fund	353,570,805	550,275,718
Special purpose fund	100,000,000	100,000,000
	<u>1,052,384,675</u>	<u>1,290,634,356</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Gross block	67,826,324	84,789,481
Less: Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	46,614,684	53,991,540
Net block	21,211,640	30,797,941
Capital Work in Progress	2,030,218	-
	<u>23,241,858</u>	<u>30,797,941</u>
Non-Current Assets		
Other bank balances	70,124,782	560,185,981
	<u>70,124,782</u>	<u>560,185,981</u>
Current assets, loans and advances		
Cash and bank balances	1,082,185,759	933,968,756
Loans and advances	55,646,100	80,506,438
Grant debtors	6,450,655	30,858,929
Stock in hand	2,315,870	158,311
	<u>1,146,598,384</u>	<u>1,045,492,434</u>
Less: Current liabilities and provisions		
Current liabilities	150,180,100	286,988,716
Provisions	37,400,249	58,853,284
	<u>187,580,349</u>	<u>345,842,000</u>
Net current assets	<u>959,018,035</u>	<u>699,650,434</u>
	<u>1,052,384,675</u>	<u>1,290,634,356</u>

Significant accounting policies and notes to accounts 15

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

As per our report attached.
For Deloitte Haskins & Sells
Chartered Accountants

Alka Chadha
Partner
Place: New Delhi
Date: 28 May 2024



For BAL RAKSHA BHARAT

Deepak Kapoor
Chairperson
Place: New Delhi
Date: 28 May 2024

Sudarshan Suchi
Chief Executive Officer
Place: New Delhi
Date: 28 May 2024



Rajiv Kapur
Treasurer
Place: Gurugram
Date: 28 May 2024

Subhashish Neogi
Director-Finance
Place: New Delhi
Date: 28 May 2024

BAL RAKSHA BHARAT
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2024
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule No.	For the year ended 31 March 2024	For the year ended 31 March 2023
Income		
Restricted income (grants/donations)	627,120,545	2,069,057,871
Unrestricted income (grants/donations)	472,804,312	550,052,615
Other income	131,468,222	224,020,467
	<u>1,231,393,079</u>	<u>2,843,130,953</u>
Expenditure		
Programme implementation expenditure	1,062,105,441	2,437,736,691
Activities for raising funds	214,987,032	244,666,015
Administrative and other costs	151,005,519	114,970,061
	<u>1,428,097,992</u>	<u>2,797,372,767</u>
Excess of income over expenditure / (Expenditure over income)	<u>(196,704,913)</u>	<u>45,758,186</u>

Significant accounting policies and notes to accounts 15

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

As per our report attached.
For Deloitte Haskins & Sells
Chartered Accountants

Alka Chadha
Partner
Place: New Delhi
Date: 28 May 2024



For BAL RAKSHA BHARAT

Deepak Kapoor
Chairperson
Place: New Delhi
Date: 28 May 2024

Sudarshan Suchi
Chief Executive Officer
Place: New Delhi
Date: 28 May 2024



Rajiv Kapur
Treasurer
Place: Gurugram
Date: 28 May 2024

Subhashish Neogi
Director-Finance
Place: New Delhi
Date: 28 May 2024

BAL RAKSHA BHARAT
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)
Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule No.	For the year ended 31 March 2024	For the year ended 31 March 2023
Cash flow from operating activities		
Grants/Donations received	1,097,782,184	2,253,508,077
Miscellaneous receipts	16,920	-
Payment for expenses		
Programme expense	(1,236,668,633)	(2,178,704,651)
Fundraising and other expenses	(171,419,728)	(277,708,812)
Salary and allowances	(102,007,520)	(71,241,628)
Income taxes paid / (refund)	(8,555,561)	(938,750)
Net cash flow from operating activities	(420,852,338)	(275,085,764)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(5,646,386)	(19,950,049)
Proceeds from sale/disposal of property, plant and equipment	900,234	251,170
Bank deposits not considered as cash and cash equivalents - Placed	(1,192,797,547)	(1,676,003,987)
Bank deposits not considered as cash and cash equivalents - Matured	1,499,739,147	1,806,029,428
Interest received from bank deposits	78,992,936	78,252,236
Net cash flow from investing activities	381,188,384	188,578,798
Cash flow from financing activities		
Net cash flow from financing activities	-	-
Net decrease cash and cash equivalents	(39,663,954)	(86,506,966)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	189,515,244	276,022,210
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	149,851,290	189,515,244
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents with the balance sheet:		
Cash and bank balances	9	1,152,310,541
In fixed deposits original maturity more than 3 months	1,002,459,251	1,304,639,493
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year (refer Schedule 9)	149,851,290	189,515,244

Significant accounting policies and notes to accounts 15

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

As per our report attached.
For Deloitte Haskins & Sells
Chartered Accountants

Alka Chadha
Alka Chadha
Partner
Place: New Delhi
Date : 28 May 2024



For BAL RAKSHA BHARAT

Deepak Kapoor
Deepak Kapoor
Chairperson
Place: New Delhi
Date : 28 May 2024

Rajiv Kapur
Rajiv Kapur
Treasurer
Place: Gurugram
Date : 28 May 2024

Sudarshan Suchi
Sudarshan Suchi
Chief Executive Officer
Place: New Delhi
Date : 28 May 2024

Subhashish Neogi
Subhashish Neogi
Director-Finance
Place: New Delhi
Date : 28 May 2024



BAL RAKSHA BHARAT
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)
Schedules forming part of the accounts
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

	As at 31 March 2024	As at 31 March 2023
Schedule 1: Corpus fund*		
Opening balance	11,400	11,400
Closing balance	11,400	11,400
* (Refer note 1(b) of schedule 15)		
Schedule 2: Restricted fund Liability *		
Opening balance	362,333,992	831,762,032
Add: Grants received during the year	595,385,565	1,703,455,462
Add : Grant Debtors	36,056,020	29,017,417
Less: Grants received in earlier years transferred from restricted to unrestricted (refer note 16 of Schedule 15)	-	(6,921,388)
Less: Revenue grants recognised in the income and expenditure account	(627,120,545)	(2,069,057,871)
Less: Indirect Cost recovery earned transferred to General Fund	(51,464,146)	(130,309,290)
Add: Unutilised Balance of Endowment Fund Interest Income for the year	13,015,019	4,387,630
Closing balance	328,205,905	362,333,992
* (Refer note 1(b) of schedule 15)		
Schedule 3: Endowment fund (refer note 6 of Schedule 15) *		
Opening balance	216,975,000	216,975,000
Closing balance	216,975,000	216,975,000
* (Refer note 1(b) of schedule 15)		
Schedule 3A: Endowment fund interest		
Interest earned on endowment fund during the year	15,447,859	12,023,990
Less: Funds disbursed to early child development (ECD) center during the year	(2,432,840)	(7,636,360)
Balance transferred to restricted fund	13,015,019	4,387,630
Schedule 4: Empathy fund (refer note 7 of Schedule 15)		
Opening balance	61,038,246	60,000,000
Add: Unutilised Balance of Empathy Fund Interest Income for the year	2,206,179	1,038,246
Less: Payment made out of Empathy Fund	9,622,860	-
Closing balance	53,621,565	61,038,246
Schedule 4A: Empathy fund interest		
Interest earned on Empathy fund during the year	3,772,162	3,053,246
Less: Funds disbursed against Empathy Fund	(1,565,983)	(2,015,000)
Balance transferred to Empathy Fund	2,206,179	1,038,246
Schedule 5: General fund *		
Opening balance	550,275,718	504,517,532
Add: Excess of income over expenditure / (expenditure over income)	(196,704,913)	45,758,186
Closing balance	353,570,805	550,275,718
* (Refer note 1(b) of schedule 15)		
Schedule 6: Special purpose fund		
Opening balance	100,000,000	100,000,000
Closing balance	100,000,000	100,000,000



Bal Raksha Bharat (registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860) Schedules forming part of the accounts (All amounts are in Indian Rupees)	As at 31 March 2024	As at 31 March 2023
Schedule 8: Non-Current assets		
Other bank balances *		
-on deposit account with banks	70,124,782	560,185,981
	<u>70,124,782</u>	<u>560,185,981</u>
* (Refer note 1(b) of schedule 15)		
Schedule 9: Current assets, loans and advances		
Cash and bank balances *		
Cash in hand	-	245
Balances with bank		
- on current account	9,574,886	26,598,503
- on deposit account	842,236,469	404,988,157
- on saving account	140,276,404	162,916,496
Balances with financial institution		
- on deposit account	90,098,000	339,465,355
	<u>1,082,185,759</u>	<u>933,968,756</u>
* (Refer note 1(b) of schedule 15)		
Loans and advances * (Unsecured and considered good unless otherwise stated)		
Advances recoverable in cash or kind or for value to be received	75,216,207	47,770,851
Less: Provision for doubtful advances	(74,202,968)	(22,036,015)
Security deposits	3,714,130	9,513,581
Less: Provision for doubtful advances	(3,071,960)	(2,792,960)
Staff advances	237,103	353,679
Less: Provision for doubtful advances	(237,103)	-
Tax deducted at source	23,290,937	14,735,376
Interest accrued on fixed deposits	30,699,754	32,961,926
	<u>55,646,100</u>	<u>80,506,438</u>
* (Refer note 1(b) of schedule 15)		
Grant debtors *		
Grant debtors	37,651,652	37,406,737
Less: Provision for doubtful grant debtors	(31,200,997)	(6,547,808)
	<u>6,450,655</u>	<u>30,858,929</u>
* (Refer note 1(b) of schedule 15)		
Stock in hand *		
Stock in hand	2,315,870	158,311
	<u>2,315,870</u>	<u>158,311</u>
* (Refer note 1(b) of schedule 15)		
Schedule 10: Current liabilities and provisions *		
Current liabilities		
Sundry creditors and payables		
Micro, small and medium enterprises	10,404,205	33,533,686
Other than micro, small and medium enterprises	124,493,523	214,009,702
Other liabilities	15,282,372	39,445,328
	<u>150,180,100</u>	<u>286,988,716</u>
Provisions		
Gratuity	37,400,249	58,853,284
	<u>37,400,249</u>	<u>58,853,284</u>
* (Refer note 1(b) of schedule 15)		
Schedule 11: Other income		
Interest income from fixed deposits	66,033,910	76,740,370
Write back of restricted fund liability (refer note 16 of Schedule 15)	-	6,921,388
Indirect Cost Recovered (ICR) from Grants	51,464,147	130,309,290
Miscellaneous income	13,970,165	10,049,419
	<u>131,468,222</u>	<u>224,020,467</u>



BAL RAKSHA BHARAT
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)
Schedules forming part of the accounts
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule 7: Property, plant and equipment *
(Refer Note 2 of Schedule 15)

Category		Gross Block				Depreciation/Amortisation				Net Block			
		As at 31 March 2023	Additions during the year	Deletions during the year	Write off	As at 31 March 2024	As at 31 March 2023	Depreciation / amortisation expense for the year	Eliminated on deletion of assets	Eliminated on write off of assets	As at 31 March 2024	As at 31 March 2023	As at 31 March 2023
Furniture & Fixture	Current Year	5,992,605	56,509	776,155	30,485	5,242,474	4,629,588	419,346	590,450	25,502	4,432,982	809,492	1,363,017
	Previous Year	5,774,310	297,190	78,874	21	5,992,605	4,024,275	665,842	60,529	-	4,629,588	1,363,017	1,750,035
Softwares	Current Year	13,223,730	104,313	-	-	13,328,043	3,447,974	3,934,427	-	-	7,382,401	5,945,642	9,775,756
	Previous Year	3,432,249	9,791,481	-	-	13,223,730	2,357,230	1,090,744	-	-	3,447,974	9,775,756	1,075,019
Computers	Current Year	31,136,524	2,794,919	2,370,338	-	31,561,105	20,973,109	4,902,478	2,068,374	-	23,807,213	7,753,892	10,163,415
	Previous Year	23,849,577	7,977,870	566,314	124,609	31,136,524	17,039,884	4,564,979	518,538	113,216	20,973,109	10,163,415	7,151,863
Vehicle	Current Year	5,086,418	-	1,532,196	-	3,554,222	2,336,590	856,241	1,326,119	-	1,866,712	1,687,510	2,749,828
	Previous Year	2,721,591	2,906,233	541,406	-	5,086,418	2,255,506	541,072	459,988	-	2,336,590	2,749,828	466,084
Equipments	Current Year	10,056,911	650,907	639,592	47,369	10,020,889	5,616,975	752,979	476,522	34,846	5,918,586	4,102,273	4,379,536
	Previous Year	9,022,224	1,408,437	339,134	14,616	10,056,911	4,852,643	1,076,731	255,753	6,646	5,678,975	4,379,536	3,797,411
Leasehold Improvements	Current Year	19,293,293	9,530	15,183,192	-	4,119,621	14,927,304	1,203,692	14,924,206	-	3,206,790	912,831	2,365,989
	Previous Year	18,986,293	367,000	60,000	-	19,293,293	14,706,951	2,260,109	39,756	-	16,927,304	2,365,989	4,279,342
Total Current year		84,789,481	3,616,168	20,501,473	77,853	67,826,324	53,991,540	12,069,163	19,385,671	60,348	46,614,684	21,211,640	30,797,941
Total Previous year		63,766,244	22,748,211	1,585,728	139,246	84,789,481	45,246,489	10,199,477	1,334,564	119,862	83,991,540	30,797,941	18,519,754
Capital Work in Progress	Current Year	-	2,030,218	-	-	2,030,218	-	-	-	-	-	2,030,218	-
Total Current year		-	2,030,218	-	-	2,030,218	-	-	-	-	-	2,030,218	-

* (Refer note No 1(b) of schedule 15)



BAL RAKSHA BHARAT
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)
Schedules forming part of the accounts
 (All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

	For the year ended 31 March 2024	For the year ended 31 March 2023
Schedule 12 - Programme implementation expenditure		
Thematic Intervention		
Education	212,556,062	1,020,026,136
Protection	511,292,237	616,677,963
Disaster response and disaster risk resilience	180,849,907	463,590,426
Health and nutrition	157,407,235	337,442,166
Total	1,062,105,441	2,437,736,691
Schedule 13 - Activities for raising funds		
Salary and allowances	44,048,591	52,066,444
Travel and accommodation	1,179,132	1,539,819
Rent	3,570,698	2,116,318
Repairs and maintenance	372,654	347,871
Legal and professional	1,788,050	1,956,729
Conference and meetings	637,575	603,545
Agency fee/commission	57,409,195	61,647,556
Telemarketing expenses	23,149,851	33,604,645
Advertisement	41,477,992	48,429,542
Bank charges	151,951	186,850
Communication expenses	2,918,097	4,259,009
Other operational expenses	38,283,246	37,907,687
Total	214,987,032	244,666,015
Schedule 14 - Administrative and other costs		
Salary and allowances	36,235,573	31,361,885
Travel and accommodation	1,304,245	1,507,049
Rent	2,462,551	2,751,214
Repairs and maintenance	273,272	380,294
Legal and professional	5,215,628	5,655,063
Conference and meetings	407,314	304,413
Bank charges	39,384	46,818
Communication expenses	580,061	831,877
Other operational expenses	92,418,328	61,931,971
Depreciation and amortisation	12,069,163	10,199,477
Total	151,005,519	114,970,061



BAL RAKSHA BHARAT
(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)
Schedules forming part of the accounts
Schedule 15 – Notes to accounts

1. Organisation Status

BAL RAKSHA BHARAT is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 vide registration certificate no. S/51101/2004 dated 27 December 2004. The main object of the Society is to work towards the promotion and enhancement of the quality of Children's life and inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

The Society has been granted registration under section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, vide registration number AAAAB5052CE20214 dated 28 May 2021. The registration granted has a validity of 5 years from Assessment year 22-23 to 26-27.

The Society has been granted registration under section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961, vide registration number AAAAB5052CF20214 dated 28 May 2021. The registration granted has a validity of 5 years from Assessment Year 22-23 to 26-27.

- 1 (a) The Society had been registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 (FCRA) for carrying out activities of social nature which was renewed for a period of 5 years starting from 1 November 2016 till 31 October 2021. The application for renewal of FCRA Registration Certificate was filed on 22 April 2021. The Ministry of Home Affairs had extended the validity of FCRA registration certificate from time to time vide Public Notices, last one of which was valid up to 31 July 2023.

The Society received an intimation on 31 July 2023 from the Ministry of Home Affairs indicating that renewal had been refused under section 16(1) read with Section 12(4)(a)(i) of FCRA 2010. Based on the assessment of the management and legal advice obtained it was assessed that the grounds for refusal of the application for renewal, did not have any legal merit and that the society has been duly registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, was registered under section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as an Implementing Agency for CSR Projects and had been awarded contracts for CSR projects by Companies, was registered with Niti Aayog under the NGO Darpan, registered with the Provident Fund (PF) authorities and that the renewal application did not fall under the purview of section 12(4)(a)(i) of FCRA 2010.

Based on the evaluation carried out by the management and legal advice obtained, the Society decided to proceed with the filing of fresh application for registration and an application was made on 17 April 2024, under section 11 (1) of FCRA 2010 to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Foreign Division (FCRA Wing).

- 1(b) During the year ended 31 March 2023, the Society had complied with the FCRA regulations and rules thereunder and appropriate filings had been carried out with the appropriate authorities. Also, consequent to the refusal of the renewal application under the FCRA 2010, the Society had complied with the regulations in respect thereof and had recorded appropriate adjustments in the books of account and the assets were stated at the lower of their historic cost and estimated net realisable value and the liabilities were stated at the values at which they were expected to be discharged as at 31 March 2023.



BAL RAKSHA BHARAT

(registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)

Schedules forming part of the accounts

Schedule 15 – Notes to accounts

Pursuant to refusal of renewal application and expiry of FCRA registration on 31 July 2023, the Society reassessed the FCRA balances as on 31 July 2023 and recorded appropriate adjustments in the books of account and the assets are stated at the lower of their historic cost and estimated net realisable value and the liabilities are stated at the values at which they were expected to be discharged and the prescribed FCRA balances vest (with effect from 1 August 2023) with the prescribed authority. Accordingly no payment can be made by the Society from the designated FCRA bank accounts post 31 July 2023, including to refund the unspent restricted fund liability to the Foreign Contribution (FC) donors, without obtaining approvals from MHA and this was duly communicated to the donors.

Further, during the period beginning 1 August 2023 to 31 March 2024, adjustments were recorded in respect of:

- Accrual of interest on the bank account that vests with the prescribed authorities under the FCRA 2010
- Current liabilities in FC- related accounts were paid from unrestricted fund balances and disbursed from the non-FC bank accounts Further the amount paid from non FC bank accounts is recorded as advance recoverable in cash or kind or value to be received and a provision for doubtful advances is recorded with respect to this in Non-FC related accounts.

Consequent to the refusal of the renewal application under the FCRA 2010 post 31 July 2023, as indicated in Note 1(a) above, the Society has:

- Intimated all donors regarding the refusal of the renewal application and filing of the application for registration and assessed that the agreements stand terminated unless further mutually suspended / extended upto 30 September 2024 or later as agreed with the donor.
- Evaluated that the refusal does not adversely affect its ability to continue as a going concern and that sufficient funds are available from local sources to fulfil its obligations.
- Made adjustments to the values of assets and liabilities as stated above.

As per management assessment supported by legal opinion, prescribed FCRA balances that vested (with effect from 1 August 2023) with the prescribed authority includes:

- Balances as at 31 July 2023 of Rs. 5,400, Rs. 216,975,000 and Rs. 286,598,080 in respect of Corpus fund, Endowment fund, and Restricted funds respectively. Such balances remain outstanding as at 31 March 2024. The balances in respect of such FCRA funds as on 31 March 2023 was Rs. 5,400, Rs. 216,975,000 and Rs. 297,364,207 respectively.
- The current liabilities balance as at 31 July 2023 was Rs 50,543,563 in FC related accounts, out of which Rs. 31,788,407 was paid from unrestricted fund balances and was disbursed from the non-FC bank accounts. The balance outstanding as at 31 March 2024 in respect thereof was Rs. 18,755,156 (as at 31 March 2023 : Rs. 92,746,560) Further, the amount paid of Rs. 31,788,407 from the non-FC bank accounts was recorded as “advance recoverable in cash or kind or value to be received” with a corresponding provision for doubtful advances.
- The provision balance as on 31 July 2023 includes Rs. 36,393,234 pertaining to Gratuity liability (as at 31 March 2023: Rs. 36,298,654). The total balance outstanding in FC and Local Account as on 31 March 2024 in respect of Gratuity liability amounted to Rs. 37,400,249 (as at 31 March 2023: Rs. 58,853,285).

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The assets created out of the foreign contribution, vest with the prescribed authority (with effect from 1 August 2023) under the FCRA, 2010 until the fresh registration is granted by the Central Government.

- The Society had reassessed the useful life of property, plant and equipment. The net block of property, plant and equipment as at 31 July 2023 of Rs. Nil and the balance as at 31 March 2024 amounted to Rs. Nil (31 March 2023: 450,635).
- The cash and bank balances including other bank balances and interest accrued on fixed deposits as at 31 July 2023 amounted to Rs. 733,472,510. These earmarked balances as on 31 March 2024 amounted to Rs. 762,755,667 comprising Rs. 70,124,782, Rs. 669,863,116 and Rs. 22,767,769 in other bank balances, cash and bank balances and interest accrued respectively (31 March 2023: Rs. 790,264,367), the increase being on account of interest accrued.
- The gross balances as at 31 July 2023 include Rs. 42,414,561, Rs. 1,979,021, Rs 237,103 and Rs. 24,982,202 pertaining to advances recoverable in cash, kind or for value to be received from external parties, security deposits, staff advance and grant debtors respectively which were outstanding and were provided for and these balances remain the same as at 31 March 2024.

The gross balances outstanding as at 31 March 2023 pertaining to advances recoverable in cash, kind or for value to be received from external parties, security deposits, staff advance and grant debtors were Rs. 54,718,169, Rs. 1,764,521, Rs. 237,103 and Rs. 9,654,236 respectively.

- The gross balance of stock in hand balance as on 31 July 2023 and as on 31 March 2024 amounted to Rs. 498,371 (31 March 2023 Rs. 156,711).

Based on the assessment by the management, the Society does not anticipate any further adjustments/effect to the financial statements. The Society has taken necessary measures to address the implications of refusal of renewal application and has filed an application for registration as mentioned above. The scope, duration or outcome of this matter including with respect to the balances that have vested with the prescribed authority cannot be assessed at this stage with any degree of predictability.



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2. Significant accounting policies

a. Basis of preparation of financial statements

As per Appendix I to the Applicability of Accounting Standards to Non-corporate Entities (as on February 1, 2022), the Society is a Level IV entity- Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) Accordingly, the Society has complied with the Accounting Standards as applicable to a Level IV entity. The Society is not required to present the Related Party Disclosures, Segment reporting, Discontinuing Operations disclosures and Impairment of Assets as required under the relevant Accounting Standards. Further, the Society has availed an exemption in respect of the Accounting Standard 15 (revised) on 'Employee Benefits' and Accounting Standard 19 'Leases'. The Society has presented Cash flow statement to meet its internal requirements.

The financial statements of the Society have been prepared under the historical cost convention on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with the applicable accounting standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") in India.

In the Income and Expenditure account, expenses are reported according to following functional classifications: (1) Programme Implementation Expenditure; (2) Activities for Raising Funds and (3) Administrative and Other Costs.

b. Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Indian GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Any revision to accounting estimates is recognised prospectively in current and future periods. Contingencies are recorded when it is probable that a liability will be incurred, and the amount can be reasonably estimated.

c. Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation. The cost of property, plant and equipment includes taxes, duties, freight and other incidental expenditure related to acquisition and installation.

Property, plant and equipment procured out of grants are charged off as program expenditure against the said grants as per terms & conditions set out in the Grant Agreements. However, to reflect a true & fair view of the assets owned by the Society and to exercise physical and financial control over them, those are capitalised at a nominal value of Re. 1. Assets which are fully depreciated but are not disposed off, are retained at a nominal value of Re 1 till disposal for the purpose of exercising effective controls over them.

Capital work in progress is Rs. 2,030,218 as on 31 March 2024 (31 March 2023: Rs. Nil)

Also refer note 1(b) above.



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d. Depreciation

Depreciation is charged on pro-rata basis to the period of use on the written down value method using the following rates:

Property, plant and equipment	Rates of depreciation used
Furniture and fixtures	18.10%
Computer	40.00%
Equipment	13.91%
Vehicles	25.89%

Leasehold improvements are being amortised over the remaining term of the lease agreement or the useful life of the assets, whichever is shorter.

Licensed software are being amortised as per period for which license is valid.

The rates reflect the estimated economic useful life of the assets as estimated by the management.

Also refer note 1(b) above.

e. Stock in hand

Stock in hand is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, with obsolete stock written off. Cost comprises the cost of purchase and is determined using the first-in, first-out method. The net realisable value of stock in hand is based on the service potential of the stock.

f. The Society's obligations towards various employee benefits have been recognised as follows:

Short term employee benefits

All employee benefits payable wholly within twelve months of rendering service are classified as short-term employee benefits. Benefits such as salaries, allowances, are recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account in the period in which the employee renders the related services.

Post-employment benefits

Defined contribution plans: The Society's provident fund is a defined contribution plan where the contribution paid/ payable under the scheme is recognised as an expense in the period in which the employee renders the related service. The Society's contributions are deposited with the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner and are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account.

Defined benefit plans: In respect of gratuity, the liability is determined based on actuarial valuation using the Projected Unit Credit Method as at the balance sheet date, which recognises each period of service as giving rise to additional unit of employee benefit entitlement and measures each unit separately to build up the final obligation.

The obligation is measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows. The discount rates used for determining the present value of the obligation under defined benefit plan is based on market yields on Government securities as at the balance sheet date.



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Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in the Income and Expenditure Account. Gains or losses on the curtailment or settlement of any defined benefit plan are recognised when the curtailment or settlement occurs.

g. Leases

The Society has taken various premises on operating lease. Lease payments under operating lease are recognised as an expense in the Income and Expenditure Account on a Straight line basis over the lease term.

h. Income Recognition

Restricted Income is recognised in Income and Expenditure account to the extent of expenditure incurred from Restricted Funds. Unrestricted and Other income is recognised on receipt basis. Interest income is recognised on Accrual basis.

i. Cash Flow Statement

Cash flows are reported using the direct method. The cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities of the Society are segregated based on the available information.

j. Cash and cash equivalents (for purposes of Cash Flow Statement)

Cash comprises cash on hand and demand deposits with banks and financial institutions. Cash equivalents are short-term balances (with an original maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition), highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

k. Contingent liabilities and provisions

The Society makes a provision when there is a present obligation as a result of a past event where the outflow of economic resources is probable and a reliable estimate of the amount of the obligation can be made.

A disclosure is made for a contingent liability when there is a:

- Possible obligation, the existence of which will be confirmed by the occurrence/nonoccurrence of one or more uncertain events, not fully within the control of the Society.
- Present obligation, where it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligations, or
- Present obligation, where a reliable estimate cannot be made.

Where there is a present obligation in respect of which the likelihood of outflow of resources is remote, no provision or disclosure is made.



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3. Foreign Contributions

Grants and donations remitted from foreign sources had been received in INR converted value directly credited to FCRA Bank Account in State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch. Also refer note 1(b) above.

4. Corpus fund

Corpus fund relates to funds contributed by the founder members at incorporation and fees received on admission of an Institutional Member in the Society. Also refer to note 1(b) above.

5. Restricted fund

- Restricted Funds are funds that are to be used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by donors. The cost of administration of such funds is charged against the specific fund in line with donor agreements or allocated based on usage of common facilities.

The Society has presented Restricted Fund Liability and Restricted Fund Asset separately.

- The unutilised portion of foreign currency unrestricted fund income generated out of indirect cost recovery on foreign grants, individual giving donations received from foreign sources and interest earned on foreign contributions being unrestricted in nature have been transferred to General Fund.

Also refer note 1(b) above.

6. Endowment fund

The Endowment fund had an opening balance of Rs. 216,975,000 for funding the operation of a Centre for Early Childhood Development (ECD). This grant was funded by Save the Children, United Kingdom in August 2009. The Endowment Fund agreement has got amended in April 2021 to expand its scope for childhood development programme and such other projects as the Society may determine from time to time. The revised agreement allows the Society to run pre-service programme of high quality (Master of Arts-ECD) to produce a cadre of early childhood development professionals. Also, the revised agreement allows to extend technical assistance to state/central government institutions in the domain of ECD. As per the amended grant agreement, the income arising out of the fund balance would be used to administer or support the operations of childhood development programmes in India.

Also refer note 1(b) above.

7. Empathy Fund

Empathy Fund is a fund which will be dedicated to providing critical resource relief for the full-time staff on roll of the organisation, especially focusing on those who are at the lower end of compensation bands and can get distraught due to any unanticipated expenditure happening due to



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a critical situation / opportunity which also has long term consequences. An Empathy fund of Rs 6,00,00,000 was set aside by the Trustees/management of the Society during the year 2021-22 vide Board Resolution adopted. The Society has earmarked Fixed Deposits (FD) from pool of FD and the interest income from the fund shall primarily be utilised to meet the aforesaid purpose. Unspent interest amount year on year shall be added back to the Empathy Fund. The General Council approved on 1 September 2023 to disburse the severance package of impacted staff from the Empathy Fund amounting to Rs. 96,22,860 and the balance of the fund as on 31 March 2024 is Rs. 53,621,565

The General Council may allow the management to lift the designation whenever it wishes and reallocate the funds to some other designated purpose.

8. General Fund

General funds are unrestricted funds which have not been designated for any specific purposes. They are available for use at the discretion of the management in furtherance of the general objectives of the society. Out of the General Fund Balance as on 31 March 2024, Rs 184,968,514 pertaining to FC vests with the prescribed authority of the MHA from 31 July, 2023.

9. Special Purpose Fund

Special purpose funds are unrestricted funds which have been set aside by the trustees/management of society for specific purposes or to meet specific future commitments. Unlike restricted funds, these designations are self-imposed and are not legally binding. The General Council may allow the management to lift the designation whenever it wishes and reallocate the funds to some other designated purpose.

10. Programme implementation Expenditure

The Society spends its funds in programs across India in the following areas:

Education – Helping children reach school and stay there through various programmes in the areas of elementary education and early childhood care and education.

Protection – Helping and protecting children pushed into child labour, abuse, neglect, exploitation, physical danger and violence.

Disaster Response and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) – Responding immediately to families affected by Natural disasters with food aid, water, essential items, and rehabilitation of affected families. Increase preparedness of children and families for emergency situations in the aftermath of natural disasters through child centered and community-based approaches.

Health and Nutrition – Helping children through programmes in the areas of Child Survival, Newborn Health, Maternal Health, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene.

The Society works directly and through other partner agencies to which it disburses grants and accordingly expenditure incurred by the Society during the year includes such disbursement of grants in accordance with the agreements with them.



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Post completion of the grant independent audit of the expenditure incurred is conducted through external audit agencies based on which final settlement / accounting is done, which has been relied upon by the statutory auditors.

11. Legal and professional charges include Auditors' remuneration:

	Year ended 31-Mar-24 (Rs.)	Year ended 31-Mar-23 (Rs.)
Audit fees	14,65,000	15,00,000
Other services*	1,50,000	4,00,000
Out of pocket expenses	1,36,240	91,000
Goods and Services	3,15,223	3,58,380
Tax		
Total	20,66,463	23,49,380

*Other services relates to auditor's certificate as per the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011 and compliance with respect to Form 10B as per provisions of Income Tax Act 1961

12. Employee Benefits

Defined contribution plans

The employee provident fund scheme is a defined contribution plan. A sum of Rs. 30,507,376 (previous year Rs.37,204,012) has been recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account.

Defined benefit plans

With effect from 1 April 2021, an amended Gratuity policy has been adopted by the Society which is aligned to the Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 by virtue of which

- All regular staff member are entitled for Payment of Gratuity on rendition of 5 years of continuous service with the Society. However, 5 years of continuous service is not mandatory in the case where the termination is due to death or disablement.
- All regular staff who join the Society on or after 1 April 2021, shall be covered under the new Gratuity policy, wherein a 5-year vesting period will apply for them to be eligible for Gratuity.
- The regular staff who joined prior to 1 April 2021 and who have completed 1 year but have not completed 5 years, the Society will honor its commitment made in the respective contracts/appointment letters, to pay gratuity as ex-gratia, in case they exit before completion of 5 years (for every year of service completed).



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Gratuity is payable to all eligible employees of the Society on resignation, retirement, death or permanent disablement, in terms of the provisions of the Payment of Gratuity Act. The liability for gratuity, as determined by actuarial valuation as on 31 March 2024 is Rs. 3,74,00,249 (previous year Rs. 58,853,285).

The expenditure for gratuity as determined by actuarial valuation for the year 2023-24 is Rs. 8,605,662 (previous year Rs. 8,457,889).

The actuarial assumptions for regular staff for the aforesaid calculation were as under:

Particulars	For the year ended 31 March 2024	For the year ended 31 March 2023
Discount Rate	7.25% per annum	7.25% per annum
Annual salary escalation rate	7% per annum	0% increment in FY23-24 and afterwards 7% from second year
Mortality	IALM 2012-14	IALM 2012-14
Withdrawal Rate	23.00% per annum	40.00% per annum

The actuarial assumptions for project staff as under:

Particulars	For the year ended 31 March 2024	For the year ended 31 March 2023
Discount Rate	7.25% per annum	7.00% per annum
Annual salary escalation rate	7% per annum	7.00% per annum
Mortality	IALM 2012-14	IALM 2012-14
Withdrawal Rate	11.31% per annum	49.49% per annum

13. Amount due to Micro and Small Enterprises

The amount due to Micro and Small Enterprises as defined in the "The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006" has been determined to the extent such parties have been identified on the basis of information available with the Society. The disclosures relating to Micro and Small Enterprises as at year end are as under:

(Amount in Rs.)

Particulars	Year ended 31 March 2024	Year ended 31 March 2023
(i) The principal amount remaining unpaid to supplier as at the end of the year	10,199,782	33,391,938
(ii) The interest due there on remaining unpaid to supplier as at the end of the year	204,423	141,749
(iii) The amount of interest due and payable for the period of delay in making payment (which have been paid but beyond the appointed day during the year) but without adding the interest specified under this act	-	-
(iv) The amount of interest accrued during the year and remaining unpaid at the end of the year	2,04,423	-
(v) The amount of further interest due and payable even in the succeeding year, until such date when the interest dues as above are actually paid	-	-


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14. Allocation of Common Costs

For the purpose of financial statements of the society, Common costs are allocated on net basis to all departments on the basis of their usage of the services and estimates as considered appropriate by the management and have been adjusted to the natural heads of respective expenses. The nature of common cost are salaries and allowances of Support functions, fundraising expenses, rent, repair and maintenance, travel and accommodation, legal and professional charges, conference and meeting, training expenses, communication, bank charges and other operational charges.

15. The Society has transferred restricted fund liability pertaining to FY 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 of Rs. 6,921,388 to unrestricted fund since there had been no claim from the concerned donors to date. The transferred amount had been included in Other income (Refer Schedule 2 and 10).

16. Contingent liabilities and provisions

As on 31 March, 2024 (and as on 31 March 2023) there is no contingent liability against any pending litigation. Further there is no exposure with respect to penalties/fines/compliances with laws and regulations/other claims not acknowledged as debts as on 31 March 2024 (and as on 31 March 2023).

17. The figures for the previous year have been regrouped/ rearranged wherever considered necessary to conform to the current year's classification.

For BAL RAKSHA BHARAT


Deepak Kapoor
 Chairperson


Rajiv Kapur
 Treasurer


Sudarshan Suchi
 Chief Executive Officer


Subhashish Neogi
 Director-Finance

 Place: New Delhi
 Date: 28 May, 2024




**Bal
Raksha
Bharat**

Also known as **Save the Children**

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